

TALON AGENTS: THE MAJESTIC  
BIRDS OF CAVE CREEK CANYON

ARTIST ROBERT SHIELDS:  
NOPE. HE'S NOT ALL MIME

AUGUST 1909: WILDLIFE ECOLOGY  
IS BORN IN THE WHITE MOUNTAINS

# ARIZONA

HIGHWAYS

ESCAPE · EXPLORE · EXPERIENCE

AUGUST 2009

BEST  
*of* AZ

100  
of our favorite things

*featuring*

BRANDON WEBB  
& ROGER CLYNE

*plus*

DIERKS BENTLEY:  
The Coolest Dude  
in Country Music

*and*

A Pulitzer Winner  
and a Camera Went  
Into the Catalinas ...



features

14 BEST OF AZ

Our first-ever guide to the best of everything in Arizona, from eco-friendly accommodations to secret hide-aways and margaritas. The latter, by the way, come courtesy of Roger Clyne, the Tempe-based rock star. Cy Young Award-winner Brandon Webb pitched in on this piece as well, and so did NFL referee Ed Hochuli. Some of the choices you'll agree with. Others, probably not. Either way, this is our take on the "Best of Arizona." EDITED BY KELLY KRAMER

36 A PULITZER WINNER AND A CAMERA WENT INTO THE CATALINAS ...

It sounds like a joke, doesn't it? It's not. We just wrote that to get your attention. When it comes to photography, Jack Dykinga is dead serious. That's why he has a Pulitzer sitting on his mantel. Or maybe it's shoved in a drawer — that's more Jack's style. Like other great artists, Jack's not motivated by medals and trophies. He's motivated by great photography, which is what he delivers in this month's portfolio of the Santa Catalina Mountains.

BY JACK DYKINGA

46 PLEIN AND SIMPLE

It's a French term, *en plein air*, and it refers to the process of painting in the great outdoors. Arizona, with its dramatic light and spectacular topography, attracts plein-air artists from around the world — gifted men and women who are forced to work quickly and simply to capture the ever-changing conditions.

BY AMY ABRAMS PHOTOGRAPHS BY TIM KOORS

departments

2 EDITOR'S LETTER 3 CONTRIBUTORS 4 LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

5 THE JOURNAL

People, places and things from around the state, including old-school lodging (literally) in Globe, the 100th anniversary of Aldo Leopold's historic trek through the White Mountains and Sedona artist Robert Shields — he's come a long way since *Shields and Yarnell*.

52 SCENIC DRIVE

Stoneman Lake Road: An 8 million-year-old lake, aspens and lush meadows are just a few reasons to hop on this back road to Flagstaff.

54 HIKE OF THE MONTH

Arizona Trail 87: The Arizona Trail has many segments. One of the most scenic runs from Marshall Lake to Fischer Point near Flagstaff.

56 WHERE IS THIS?

www.arizonahighways.com



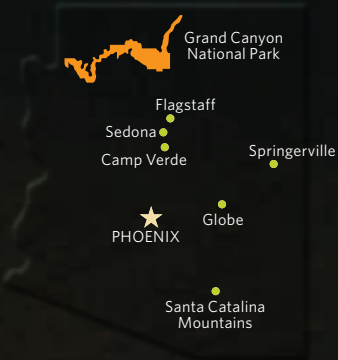
**TALK TO US:** This month we feature our first-ever "Best of Arizona" issue (see page 14). It's a lengthy piece, but it's not comprehensive. There are plenty of other great things about Arizona. Tell us about some of your favorites. We can be reached at [editor@arizonahighways.com](mailto:editor@arizonahighways.com).

**GET MORE ONLINE:**

✦ At last count, we had subscribers in all 50 states and 120 countries around the world. It's something we're very proud of, which is why we've launched the "Global Snapshots" page on our Web site. Send us a snapshot of someone you know posing with our magazine, and we'll post it on our site. The shots can be taken in front of an old church in Croatia or an art gallery in Los Angeles. It's that simple anywhere. Click "Online Extras."

✦ Get details on some of this month's biggest events, including the "World's Oldest Continuous Rodeo," in our "Events Calendar."

✦ Want more photography? Check out the 40 finalists in our online photography contest. Next month, we'll reveal the winners.



POINTS OF INTEREST IN THIS ISSUE

► A sunlit hiker peers through a sculpted-sandstone window in Northern Arizona's Antelope Canyon. PHOTOGRAPH BY DUGALD BREMNER

**FRONT COVER** A refreshing waterfall flows from a limestone outcrop, creating an oasis where maidenhair ferns thrive within a side canyon of the Grand Canyon. PHOTOGRAPH BY WES TIMMERMAN

**BACK COVER** Day's last light paints a rosy hue on Samaniego Peak in the Santa Catalina Mountains. PHOTOGRAPH BY JACK DYKINGA





Robert Frost had a way with words. He also had a knack for finding Mother Nature's simple beauty, whether it was two roads in a yellow wood or a saturated meadow, sun-shaped and jewel-small. As a New Englander, most of his inspiration came from places like Vermont and New Hampshire. Had he spent a little time in Arizona, he would have found a similar muse.

Cathedral Rock, Hannagan Meadow, the Tumacacori Highlands ... all he had to do was throw his fountain pen at a map, hop on a train and head to our neck of the woods. Simple beauty is a common denominator in Arizona, and perhaps no place is more beautiful than Point Sublime. This little sanctuary on the North Rim of the Grand Canyon offers 270-degree views of the world's Seventh Natural Wonder. Whichever direction you look, the panoramas are breathtaking. Literally. That's why we've named it the "Best Place to Have Your Awe Inspired."

It's one of 100 people, places and things in our first-ever "Best of Arizona" issue. Cathedral Rock is on the list, too ("Best Place to Take a Photograph That'll Impress Your Friends in East Lansing"), and so are Hannagan Meadow ("Best Place to Sleep in an Open Meadow") and the Tumacacori Highlands ("Best Way to Get Edward Abbey's Perspective"). They're all scenic, but we go beyond Mother Nature. We'll also tell you about the "Best Eco-Friendly Accommodations," the "Best Farm Without Any Cows" and the "Best Place to Picnic Under a Pecan Tree." We'll even tell you about the best restroom in the state.

Of course, this is just the beginning of what makes Arizona so unique. It's impossible to condense everything to a single compilation, which is why every issue of *Arizona Highways* is a "best of," of sorts. Everything we cover, from landscapes to history to culture, is something special. A good example of that is this month's portfolio.

The Santa Catalinas could have easily landed in our cover story as the "Best Mountain Range Surrounding a Desert Metropolis." Instead, it's a typical collection of photos in a magazine known for outstanding photography. Well, "typical" probably isn't the right word. One, the Catalinas are about as atypical as a mountain range can get, and two, the photographer is anything but ordinary.

If you're a frequent reader of this magazine, you're familiar with the work of Jack Dykinga. It's second-to-none, which is why he has a Pulitzer sitting on his mantel.



ARIZONA  
HIGHWAYS TELEVISION

If you like what you see in this magazine every month, check out *Arizona Highways Television*, an Emmy Award-winning program hosted by former news anchor Robin Sewell. Now in its sixth season, the show does with audio and video what we do with ink and paper — it showcases the people, places and things of the Grand Canyon State, from the spectacular landscapes and colorful history to the fascinating culture and endless adventure. And that's just the beginning. "For me, the show is about more than just the destinations," Robin says. "It's about the people behind the scenes. It's their stories that make the destinations so interesting." Indeed, there's a reason this show wins so many awards — it's second-to-none, and we're proud to have our name on it. Take a look. For broadcast times, visit our Web site, [www.arizonahighways.com](http://www.arizonahighways.com), and click the *Arizona Highways Television* link on our home page.

Or maybe it's shoved in a drawer — that's more Jack's style. Like other great artists, Jack's not motivated by medals and trophies. He's motivated by great photography, which is what he delivers in *A Pulitzer Winner and a Camera Went Into the Catalinas*. You'll see.

Equally impressive is the work of Curt Walters. The difference is that he's climbed to the top with a paintbrush instead of a camera. Walters, if you don't know the name, is a plein-air artist, and he's among the most famous living painters of the Grand Canyon — his work hangs in the homes of Mikhail Baryshnikov and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, among others.

In *Plein and Simple* by Amy Abrams, you'll learn more about Walters and four of his local colleagues, as well as the art form itself, which is named for a French term that refers to the process of painting in the great outdoors. As you'll see, Arizona, with its dramatic light and spectacular topography, attracts plein-air artists from around the world. And why not? If you're looking to have your awe inspired, there's no place more impressive than the Grand Canyon State, which is home to a little sanctuary called Point Sublime. Robert Frost would have loved it.

#### SOMETHING'S A-TWITTER

When *Arizona Highways* published its first issue in 1925, photos were made on film and stories were written on typewriters. Manual typewriters. Now, we've entered into the world of Twitter. If you're not familiar with Twitter, you will be. It's a form of social media that allows you to "follow" various individuals as they do their thing. Our thing is traveling the state, and now you can tag along. Our official Twitter account is: [www.twitter.com/azhighways](http://www.twitter.com/azhighways). Check us out and follow along.

ROBERT STIEVE, *editor*

## ARIZONA HIGHWAYS

AUGUST 2009 VOL. 85, NO. 8

800-543-5432  
[www.arizonahighways.com](http://www.arizonahighways.com)

**Publisher**  
WIN HOLDEN

**Editor**  
ROBERT STIEVE

**Senior Editor**  
RANDY SUMMERLIN

**Managing Editor**  
SALLY BENFORD

**Editorial Administrator**  
NIKKI KIMBEL

**Director of Photography**  
PETER ENSENBERGER

**Photography Editor**  
JEFF KIDA

**Art Director**  
BARBARA GLYNN DENNEY

**Deputy Art Director**  
SONDA ANDERSSON PAPPAN

**Design Production Assistant**  
DIANA BENZEL-RICE

**Map Designer**  
KEVIN KIBSEY

**Production Director**  
MICHAEL BIANCHI

**Webmaster**  
VICTORIA J. SNOW

**Director of Sales & Marketing**  
KELLY MERO

**Circulation Director**  
NICOLE BOWMAN

**Finance Director**  
BOB ALLEN

**Information Technology**  
CINDY BORMANIS

**Corporate or Trade Sales**  
602-712-2019

**Sponsorship Sales Representation**  
ERNIE MULHOLLAND

EMM MEDIA SERVICES LLC  
602-971-6260

[emm1224@cox.net](mailto:emm1224@cox.net)

**Letters to the Editor**

[editor@arizonahighways.com](mailto:editor@arizonahighways.com)  
2039 W. Lewis Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85009

**Governor**

JANICE K. BREWER

**Director, Department of Transportation**

JOHN S. HALIKOWSKI

**Arizona Transportation Board**

**Chairman**

DELBERT HOUSEHOLDER

**Vice Chairman**

ROBERT M. MONTOYA

**Members**

FELIPE ANDRES ZUBIA, WILLIAM J.

FELDMIEIER, BARBARA ANN LUNDSTROM,

VICTOR M. FLORES

**International Regional Magazine Association**

2006, 2005, 2004, 2002, 2001

MAGAZINE OF THE YEAR

Arizona Highways® (ISSN 0004-1521) is published monthly by the Arizona Department of Transportation. Subscription price: \$24 a year in the U.S., \$44 outside the U.S. Single copy: \$3.99 U.S. **Subscription correspondence and change of address information:** Arizona Highways, P.O. Box 653, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0653. Periodical postage paid at Phoenix, AZ, and at additional mailing office. CANADA POST INTERNATIONAL PUBLICATIONS MAIL PRODUCT (CANADIAN DISTRIBUTION) SALES AGREEMENT NO. 41220511. SEND RETURNS TO QUEBECOR WORLD, P.O. BOX 875, WINDSOR, ON N9A 6P2. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Arizona Highways, P.O. Box 653, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0653. Copyright © 2009 by the Arizona Department of Transportation. Reproduction in whole or in part without permission is prohibited. The magazine does not accept and is not responsible for unsolicited materials.



PRODUCED IN THE USA



#### TIM KOORS

Photographer Tim Koors says that shooting Sedona's Plein Air Festival (see page 46) was a real treat. "Being surrounded by some of the best, most creative artists in the country and watching them interpret the light and colors of Jerome and the banks of Oak Creek was fascinating," he says. "The artists' diverse personalities and styles motivated me to try to capture that through the camera lens." A Tempe resident and former photographer for *The Phoenix Gazette* and *The Arizona Republic*, Koors has been working as a freelance photographer for the past three years.



#### JACK DYKINGA

For four of the past five years, longtime *Arizona Highways* photographer Jack Dykinga has made weekly — and sometimes daily — treks into his neighborhood park. And it's no wonder. That neighborhood park is Catalina State Park, which Dykinga shot for this month's portfolio (page 36). "It's where I go to clear my head and share this wonderful Sonoran Desert upland with friends," Dykinga says. "It's like an old friend who's always there to help and inspire with spectacular visions and sounds from riparian canyons and bajadas against the sheer palisades of the Santa Catalina Mountains. Its creation has preserved the back side of the Santa Catalina Mountains from development in a natural state, where you can walk away from the noise and clutter of the city ... or your own mind." In addition to *Arizona Highways*, Dykinga shoots regularly for *National Geographic*.



#### KELLY KRAMER

When it comes to "bests," *Arizona Highways* contributor Kelly Kramer has a list all her own. Don't even get her started on the best ice cream, the best cheeseburger or the best Roger Clyne album. So, when it came to researching this month's cover story (*Best of AZ*, page 14), her head started spinning. "There are so many places in Arizona to be inspired, get in touch with Mother Nature, let your imagination run wild, or even walk in the steps of The Duke," Kramer says. "Although I've been to most of Arizona's best-known landmarks, I can't wait to visit some of the more off-the-beaten-path places, including Betty's Kitchen Interpretive Trail in Yuma." By the way, her favorite Roger Clyne album is *Honky Tonk Union*.



#### REFERENCE LETTER

I'm only on page 4 of the June 2009 issue, which just arrived, and I must plead with you to ignore the letter from someone who wants reference figures or symbols added to the pictures [to show scale], especially the full-page ones. Please, no. For many years, I've collected some of the most amazing pictures to be framed and hung in my home, but too often I've been unable to use pictures because of people in the frame. If a picture is of a mountain or waterfall or whatever, I don't need to know measurements nor the buddies, relatives or pets of the photographer. I'm so proud of the collection I have, and yet disappointed that there aren't more due to what I consider defacing the pictures (for my purposes anyway). OK, now I can take my magazine and a glass of iced tea out on the balcony for my afternoon of *Arizona Highways*.

LOIS CLAIRE WADE, PHOENIX



June 2009

#### contact us

If you have thoughts or comments about anything in *Arizona Highways*, we'd love to hear from you. We can be reached at [editor@arizona-highways.com](mailto:editor@arizona-highways.com), or by mail at 2039 W. Lewis Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85009. For more information, visit [www.arizonahighways.com](http://www.arizonahighways.com).

#### TAKE A PASS

The May 2009 issue of your very fine magazine has a paragraph about Saguaro Lake (page 16). Please be aware that a \$6 Tonto Pass is required for using the facilities at Saguaro Lake, including hiking on the Butcher Jones Trail. This pass must be purchased in advance and cannot be purchased anywhere near Saguaro Lake, including the Butcher Jones parking lot/trailhead. Big 5

Sporting Goods stores and some Circle K Stores sell these passes, along with local [Tonto National Forest] ranger offices. Failure to display a validated pass could result in a \$100 fine. You cannot believe how angry people get at the Butcher Jones trailhead when they find out they need a Tonto Pass to hike and can't buy one there.

JIM HEGYES, SUN LAKES



May 2009

#### BEAR HUG

I enjoyed reading in your editorial about bear-watching in Canada [*Editor's Letter*, May 2009]. I grew up in Tempe, but spent many summers at our cabin at Hawley Lake. Friday or Saturday night entertainment at Hawley Lake almost always included loading up the family and going to the dump to watch the bears. I do remember the bears — especially the mama bears that would continually chase the baby bears back up the trees. We would also sit on the porch of our cabin and watch the bears go through the trashcans at night.

ELAINE ROGERS JORDAN, CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA

#### NONCOMMERCIAL SUCCESS

My wife and I are both native Arizonans who love to read your magazine every month. We live in Payson where there are no decent places to eat. We're the types of people who like noncommercial restaurant food. Each month we check

out *The Journal* page about dining in Arizona. Much to our surprise, Cornville, of all places, was featured in February 2009. We decided a road trip was in store for dinner. We absolutely enjoyed our experience at the Manzanita Restaurant, which was featured in your magazine. Thank you so much for the spotlight on dining in Arizona. We look forward to trying more restaurants in the future.

JACK LLOYD, PAYSON

#### MUSEUM PIECE

Thank you for another interesting and beautiful issue of *Arizona Highways* [January 2009]. I grew up in Arizona

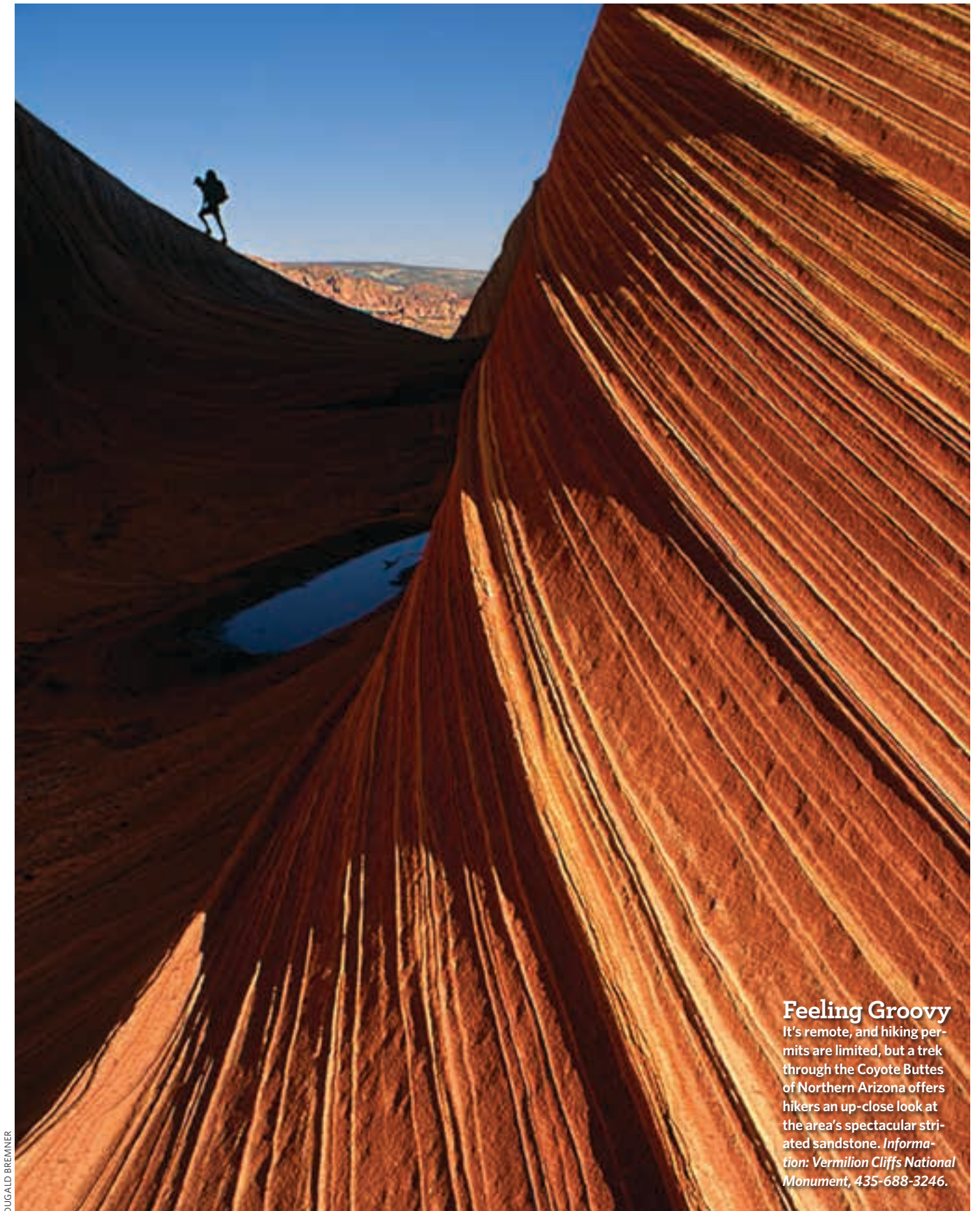
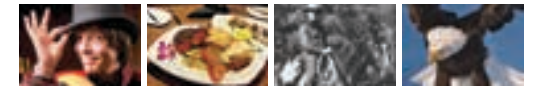


January 2009

— mostly in Glendale and Alpine — so many of the weekend getaways listed were somewhat familiar to me, but especially the Butterfly Lodge Museum. I spent one summer (about 1942 or 1943) in Greer with my aunt and uncle Angeline and Deral Burgess, who lived in the ranger station. The Butterfly Lodge was nearby. Lone Wolf was there at that time, and he often traded fresh trout for my aunt's baked goods — cookies and doughnuts. He seemed to have a real sweet tooth. My cousin and I toured the museum several times and admired his artwork and he welcomed us there. Now that I know that it's still open, I plan to go back and visit it, along with other sites spotlighted.

LURENE SKOUSEN RIGGS,  
RANCHO PALOS VERDES, CALIFORNIA

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Butterfly Lodge Museum is open Memorial Day to Labor Day. ■



DUGALD BRENNER

#### Feeling Groovy

It's remote, and hiking permits are limited, but a trek through the Coyote Buttes of Northern Arizona offers hikers an up-close look at the area's spectacular striated sandstone. *Information: Vermilion Cliffs National Monument, 435-688-3246.*





BRENDAN MOORE

## Mime and Mime Again

Robert Shields became famous as a mime in the 1970s. In the '80s, he moved to Sedona, where he mastered several other art forms and eventually found his way back to the stage.

By DAVID SCHWARTZ

FOR THE MAN WHO made his living as a mime, Robert Shields can't say enough about the special place in Arizona that he calls home. Sedona is his inspiration, his creative spark.

"All around my house, I'm surrounded by sheer formations of magic," says Shields, 58, looking out from his sweeping deck at Snoopy Rock on a recent morning. "I still get excited about this place every single day. There is such an energy here. It can't help but rejuvenate you."

His words come in adrenaline-filled bursts. Even after all these years.

Shields, one half of the well-known Shields and Yarnell comedy team, moved from Los Angeles to the crimson-hued surroundings in the late 1980s. It was a back-to-nature move that grew deep roots. He's been there ever since, channeling his creativity into a career as an artist of many forms.

There are his whimsical cats in paintings and print. Figurines of his trademark coyote. A sterling silver

depiction of three wild sisters. And a framed sculpture of a Raku medicine man. There are new pieces to create. New techniques to explore. All done off stage.

"I really don't miss performing like I used to," says Shields, who first drew notice as a street mime performing in San Francisco's Union Square. "I like doing art. It's so much fun working with different colors, textures, form and shapes. Performing is great, but when the show is over, people go home. This is much more lasting."

The pieces, which range in price from \$12 for a signed print to \$6,000 for an original painting, reflect his many moods and come in muted gem tones. At any given time, a dozen pieces in various stages of completion can be found at his Schnebly Road home studio.

Shields, who divorced from his partner and wife, Lorene Yarnell, in 1986, has retrenched in recent years. At one time, he had 60 employees, operated several retail stores and sold wholesale to another 2,000 stores nationwide. He owned a restaurant and a radio station in Red Rock Country. Then came the economic aftermath of September 11.

He says he's reinvented himself and his company. He now has two employees and sells his wares at art shows and festivals. And he's back on stage with his one-man shows, offering audiences his own physical brand of comedy and entertainment at smaller venues.

His future remains an unfinished work. "I'm living in the moment and have no grand plans," he says. "That's right where I want to be right now."

PRATT'S

Q&A



### Nils Lofgren Musician

You've performed with Bruce Springsteen and Neil Young. Who would you rather have with you if you were stranded in the White Mountains? Neither! My survival guide would be Daniel Boone or Paul Bunyan — someone who knows how to live in the White Mountains. Neil and Bruce know how to write and sing songs. I'd love to have their music catalogs to listen to, though.

When you're on the road, what's the one Arizona food you miss the most? Pizzeria Bianco. It's the greatest and most soulful dining experience my wife, Amy, and I know. We seek it out often and it always delivers.

You're on a road trip to Sedona. Pink Cadillac or Harley? Too many notes are always swirling around in my brain, so although a beautiful Harley seems appealing, I'd take the Caddy to ensure a safe arrival.

Where are some of the best places in the state to gather a little musical inspiration? My wife has taken me to quite a few mystical places in Arizona — most notably, Sedona and Patagonia. With her company and my guitar along, I always seem to get inspired musical ideas.

— Dave Pratt is the author of *Behind the Mic: 30 Years in Radio*.

## Soup's On

There's nothing ordinary about Storytellers Steakhouse in Camp Verde. Not the chef, and certainly not the soups, which include concoctions such as chilled chocolate hazelnut.

By ROGER NAYLOR

Many restaurants try to garner instant credibility by hiring well-traveled celebrity chefs. Storytellers Steakhouse in Camp Verde did something different. They plucked a guy from the neighborhood, trained him, and let the crowds and accolades roll in.

"I never thought I'd be a chef," Nathan Schreiber says. "My father was a state park manager. He was at Fort Verde and Slide Rock, and I thought that's what I'd do."

While in high school, Schreiber (below) began working at the A&W in Cottonwood. When the little eatery became McClain's Diner, he managed it for seven years. Afterward, Schreiber landed a job as line cook at Cliff Castle Casino, which gave him a chance to work with a wide range of chefs. He absorbed all they could teach, and quickly rose through the ranks to become executive chef of Storytellers, the fine-dining anchor of the casino.

"If you can be successful selling 99-cent bacon cheeseburgers, you apply those same business ethics to more creative endeavors," Schreiber says.

Storytellers welcomes visitors with its soft, dreamy ambience. Slide into an intimate cave-like booth and prepare to be dazzled. Choices include fresh seafood, Kobe beef burgers, Provençal-stuffed chicken Wellington and an array of fork-tender steaks, such as the applewood bacon-wrapped filet. One of the most popular dishes is a mesquite-smoked achiote pork chop. It marinates for two days in a medley of achiote paste, pineapple juice and assorted spices before being cold smoked, then grilled.

The purchasing power of a casino operation means Schreiber doesn't have to cut corners.

Storytellers Steakhouse is located at Cliff Castle Casino. Call 928-567-7905 or visit [www.cliffcastlecasino.net](http://www.cliffcastlecasino.net).

"We're able to use the highest quality ingredients and work with vendors that are consistent with that quality," he says. "If you had a filet two years ago, when you come in for another, you'll immediately recognize the same great taste."

While diners won't find a 99-cent menu, meals are still affordable, especially considering the plating portions. In an era when many high-end steakhouses have gone to à la carte pricing, every entrée at Storytellers comes with vegetables, a choice of potato, and soup or salad. Under no circumstances should you miss the soup.

Different versions are prepared daily, and each one is a flavor-intense concoction. From steak and fajita to Cajun seafood chowder to chilled chocolate hazelnut, the soups at Storytellers are a culinary revelation.

"Soups are fun because you can go in any direction," Schreiber says. "You're free to create and can end up with something totally unexpected."

And ending up somewhere unexpected has been the delicious story of Chef Nathan Schreiber's life.



NICK BEREZENKO





RICHARD WEBB

## Old School

Built in 1907, the Noftsger Hill Inn in Globe was originally a school — the same place former Governor Rose Mofford learned to read and write. Today, it sits at the top of *USA Today*’s list of schoolhouse B&B’s. We like it too. A lot.

By KERIDWEN CORNELIUS

TO ANYONE WHO’S EVER felt a teacher’s stern glare after dozing off in Algebra 101, take heart: The Noftsger Hill Inn in Globe offers visitors the opportunity to legitimately sleep in class. That’s because it’s located in a former elementary school, and the rooms are converted classrooms. In fact, *USA Today* put it at the top of its list of schoolhouse B&B’s nationwide.

Vying for the award of Most Unexpected-Looking Inn, the Noftsger stands proudly and hugely atop its namesake hill, looking more like a place you’d go to serve jury duty than learn your ABCs, or spend the weekend. Inside, it’s all charm, from the antique furnishings to the scholastic memorabilia to the innkeeper herself.

Veterans of the hospitality industry, Rosalie Ayala and her husband, Dom, bought and renovated the Noftsger in 2001, and run the inn as if it’s their own home. Which, actually, it is — the Ayalas live on-site, in one of the converted classrooms.

Rosalie says what makes the inn special is “the history of the school itself and its importance in Globe. It’s a real special feeling. People step back in time when they come here. It’s an inn, and it’s also a museum.”

Built in 1907, the Noftsger Hill School, as it was known, boasts a rich history. No less than former Arizona Governor Rose Mofford studied reading, writing and ’rithmetic there. Its history may also be the reason the inn is supposedly haunted by ghosts of the past.

“I’ve had things happen here that there were just no explanations for,” says Rosalie. But not to worry — the spirits are all friendly, and there’s nothing spooky-looking about the place.

It’s definitely unique, though. The expansive entryway is decked

with antiques and academic collectibles, and the walls showcase fading class photos of former Noftsger students. You can even check out their grades in the collection of report cards donated by the alumni themselves.

The dining room — a former classroom — features a large table where guests communally enjoy Rosalie’s sumptuous breakfasts, which might include A) poached eggs, B) ratatouille, C) fresh fruit, D) fresh breads or E) all of the above.

“It’s pretty elaborate, but I love it,” says Rosalie, who does all the cooking.

The rooms are so spacious you could run laps in them, yet with their nostalgic furnishings and whimsical touches, they manage to feel cozy without resorting to the typical cloying frills of many B&B’s. Some even come complete with original blackboards, scrawled with comments from guests.

In addition to businesspeople and birders, Rosalie says, the inn sees a lot of teachers, school nurses, principals, historians and long-lost members of the Noftsger clan. Regardless of background, guests are all praises and thanks upon departure. Rosalie escorts each one out, bidding them a good trip and asking if they’d like coffee for the road.

Now that’s classy.

Noftsger Hill Inn is located at 425 North Street in Globe. For more information, call 877-780-2479 or visit [noftsgerhillinn.com](http://noftsgerhillinn.com).

## Picture This

With more than 90,000 prints by 2,225 photographers, the Center for Creative Photography in Tucson isn’t just the best repository in Arizona, it’s one of the best in the world.

By PETER ENSENBARGER, director of photography

I’m squeezing one more entry into this issue’s cavalcade of Arizona’s best. Adding to an already jam-packed roster of the things that make this state unique is the Center for Creative Photography in Tucson.

You can call it a museum, archive, gallery, library or research center. It’s all of those and more. A hidden gem tucked into a modest building on the University of Arizona campus, its unassuming exterior belies the world-class collection housed inside. The center holds more archives and individual works by 20th century North American photographers than any other repository in the United States. Its print collection exceeds 90,000 works by 2,225 photographers. More than 50 photographer archives conserve prints, negatives, contact sheets, albums, manuscripts, correspondence and memora-

The Center for Creative Photography, which is open seven days a week, is located at 1030 N. Olive Drive in Tucson. For more information, visit [www.creativephotography.org](http://www.creativephotography.org).

bilia — an estimated 3.8 million items in all.

In addition, the center holds one of the world’s most important collections of photographic art by some of the biggest names of our time. Founded in 1975 by Ansel Adams and UA President John Schaefer, the Center for Creative Photography’s mission advocates “responsible stewardship of our photographic heritage.”

To that end, CCP has acquired vast archives from a long list of photography’s glitterati. For starters, you can see the works of Ansel Adams, Eugene Smith, Edward Weston, Alfred Stieglitz, Richard Avedon, Wynn Bullock and Paul Caponigro. And there’s more, including Harry Callahan, Imogen Cunningham, Edward Curtis, Paul Strand and Frederick Sommer. Longtime *Arizona Highways* contributors Barry Goldwater and David Muench also have a large presence in the center’s collection.

If hundreds of photographic masterpieces in one collection make your head spin, hold on to your hat. CCP’s best feature is public accessibility. Through a unique print study program, anyone can easily arrange to view specific prints and other materials in the collection by making an appointment online. Imagine the privilege of getting up close and personal with Ansel Adams’ master print of *Moonrise, Hernandez*, or coming face-to-face with Edward Weston’s *Pepper #30* (pictured). Not many galleries allow this kind of access. The center’s small staff and student volunteers are there to help fulfill your requests, and their user-friendly Web site provides detailed indexes of all archived materials in easy-to-use, downloadable PDF files.

Groups, researchers and individuals are invited to take advantage of this unprecedented and free access. That’s F-R-E-E. In fact, admission to all CCP gallery exhibitions and event openings is always free and open to the public, although, voluntary donations are welcomed.



EDWARD WESTON/CENTER FOR CREATIVE PHOTOGRAPHY

### TURQUOISE JEWEL

After last summer’s devastating flood destroyed Havasu Canyon’s campground and changed its famous waterfalls, the Havasupai Tribe has reopened the area to visitors.



PETER ENSENBARGER

Photographers are once again making the 20-mile round-trip hike to photograph new waterfalls formed by changes in the course of Havasu Creek. Visitors can also access the canyon by horseback or helicopter. If you go, be sure to secure reservations for the lodge in Supai village or the campground below Havasu Falls. The best times to photograph the majestic waterfalls and turquoise plunge pools are in morning and evening shade, or under lightly overcast conditions to reduce contrast. Visit [www.havasupaitribe.com](http://www.havasupaitribe.com) for details.

EDITOR’S NOTE: Look for *Arizona Highways Photography Guide*, available at bookstores and [www.arizonahighways.com](http://www.arizonahighways.com).

### ONLINE

For more photography tips and other information, visit [www.arizonahighways.com](http://www.arizonahighways.com) and click on “Photo Tips.”





ALDO LEOPOLD FOUNDATION

Aldo Leopold

## Leopold's Legacy

Aldo Leopold is regarded as the father of wildlife conservation. He was from the Midwest, but his beliefs were born 100 years ago in Eastern Arizona.

By SALLY BENFORD

HE CAME TO ARIZONA in 1909, fresh from Yale University, where he'd earned a degree from the first forestry school in the United States. Like many young college graduates,

Aldo Leopold expected to leave his mark on the world. And he did. Through his experiences and writings, Leopold became a leading voice against America's indifference to ecology.

Enthusiastic, energetic and, perhaps somewhat naïve in the ways of the West, Leopold traveled by train from Iowa across the Great Plains to the soaring landscapes of the Southwest to work for the newly formed Forest Service. His first assignment — as a forest assis-

tant for the 1-year-old Apache National Forest — brought him to the Arizona Territory. For the next two years, Leopold explored Arizona's White Mountains and fell in love with "the Apache." It was there that his views of wildlife and land conservation began to take shape.

Over the next decade, he moved up the ranks in the Forest Service, becoming supervisor of New Mexico's Carson National Forest. He was only 24. Eventually, the conservationist left the Southwest and moved back to his native Midwest, where he chaired the country's first Department of Game Management at the University of Wisconsin in Madison. He'd spend the rest of his life in Wisconsin, but he never forgot his time in Arizona.

In the course of his life, Leopold wrote more than 500 works, but he's best known for *A Sand County Almanac*, a collection of 41 essays that describe his Wisconsin home and outline his ideas about land ethics. In one of his most popular essays, *Thinking Like a Mountain*, Leopold wrote about killing a wolf in the Southwest:

"We reached the old wolf in time to watch a fierce green fire dying in her eyes. I thought that because fewer wolves meant more deer, that no wolves would mean hunters' paradise. But after seeing the green fire die, I sensed that neither the wolf nor the mountain agreed with such a view."

Leopold recognized that killing the wolf had serious implications on the mountain's ecosystem. So, he wrote about the effects, as well as other ecological issues. Although he died of a heart attack in 1948 — while helping his neighbors fight a grass fire — his writings helped initiate the modern environmental movement, and today he's regarded as the father of wildlife conservation in America.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of Leopold's arrival in the Southwest. To honor that milestone, Arizona State Parks has planned centennial celebrations promoting his vision.

### This month in history

■ Prospector Ed Schifflin staked his first mining claim in Southern Arizona on August 1, 1877, naming his camp Tombstone.

■ In August 1881, Newman Haynes Clanton, also known as Old Man Clanton, was killed during an ambush while herding cattle through Guadalupe Canyon in Southeastern Arizona near the Mexico border.



■ Robber Bill Brazelton was tracked and killed in August 1888 after a stagecoach passenger recognized Brazelton's horse by its crooked hoof.

## Talon Agents

Raptors are cool. Falcons, eagles, ospreys ... all of them. In Arizona, one of the best places to catch a glimpse is Cave Creek Canyon, which is being targeted for protection. By KELLY KRAMER

Mention raptors to a flock of sci-fi fans and they'll likely conjure images of the shrieking, taloned dinosaurs of Michael Crichton novels. Mention raptors to a group of ornithologists, and tales of falcons, eagles, hawks, ospreys and owls will keep them talking for hours.

That's particularly true of ornithologists familiar with Cave Creek Canyon, a bird-watchers' paradise located just south of Portal, in Southern Arizona's Coronado National Forest.

### nature factoid

#### Leaps and Bounds

Judging by its name, you might think of a Merriam's kangaroo rat as a giant, pouched hopper. In reality, this tiny desert dweller doesn't grow much beyond a few inches. It's quite the jumper, though — many can leap up to 9 feet in a single bound to escape predators. And it's tough, too. The kangaroo rat can survive an entire lifetime without ever drinking water, subsisting instead on moisture gleaned from its seed diet.



BRUCE D. TAUBERT

birds with hooked beaks and sharp talons that live by capturing other animals alive for food — in the area. "Cave Creek Canyon's location in the southern United States near the Mexican border means that prey and, therefore, raptor diversity, is greater here

than at more northern latitudes," she says.

"The steep topography means that different life zones are stacked up like pancakes, so driving from the town of Portal at the lower end of the canyon to the very top of the watershed is a little like going from Mexico to British Columbia in terms of the succession of habitats you'd pass through, from hot desert to cool conifer forests in a dozen linear miles."

Although there are currently countless raptors that call the canyon home, Snyder and other supporters are working to establish the Cave Creek Canyon Zoological Area, which would guide future management toward conservation projects, research and ecotourism, rather than development.

"One plan was to turn it into a National Recreation Area with paving and construction of hundreds of additional campsites in the very rich and productive riparian area," Snyder says. "Another plan was for a huge gold mine, which we fought off by getting the area withdrawn from mineral entry by passing the Cave Creek Protection Act in Congress." Coronado National Forest officials will review the plan this year.

For more information, visit [www.fs.fed.us/r3/coronado](http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/coronado). Noel and Helen Snyder's book, *Raptors of North America: Natural History and Conservation*, is available through Voyageur Press.



TOM VEZO



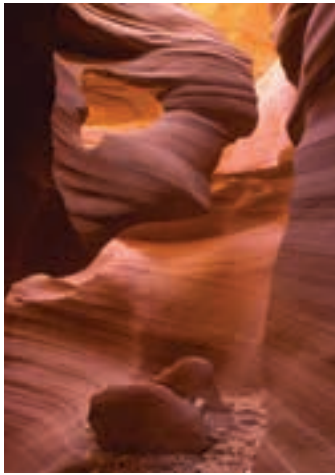


RICHARD MAACK

**For Women Only**

AUGUST 14-16  
PRESCOTT

If you've ever wanted to be an outdoorsy woman, this is your chance. Conducted by the Arizona Wildlife Federation, Becoming an Outdoors Woman (BOW) offers lessons in hunting, fly-fishing, canoeing, rappelling, kayaking and even compass-reading. *Information:* 480-644-0077 or [www.azwildlife.org/bow.html](http://www.azwildlife.org/bow.html).



PETER EISENBERGER

**Photography Workshop**

Carved into the sandstone of the Colorado Plateau, Arizona's slot canyons are on every photographer's must-see list. Places like Antelope Canyon offer opportunities to capture Northern Arizona's rock wonderlands. Make plans to join award-winning photographer and *Arizona Highways* contributor LeRoy DeJolie for this workshop, September 4-8. *Information:* 888-790-7042 or [www.friendsofhighways.com](http://www.friendsofhighways.com).



COURTESY PHOENIX ART MUSEUM

**Art: Tony Foster**

AUGUST 1-31 PHOENIX

Enjoy large-scale watercolor paintings of the North and South Rims of the Grand Canyon, as well as Mount Everest, by English artist Tony Foster. His exhibit, *Tony Foster, Searching for a Bigger Subject*, is on display at the Phoenix Art Museum. The plein-air artist's works include small "souvenirs" from each region and geographical maps locating the exact point of execution. *Information:* 602-257-1222 or [www.phxart.org](http://www.phxart.org).



BRUCE D. TAUBERT

**Southwest Wings & Birding Festival**

AUGUST 5-9  
SIERRA VISTA

"Warblers of the Southwest" is the theme for this annual festival, where visitors can learn about birds and their habitats. Attend the festival's presentations, lectures, workshops, field trips and exhibits. A new feature this year focuses on nectar-feeding bats. *Information:* 520-678-8237 or [www.swwings.org](http://www.swwings.org).

**Perseid Meteor Shower**

AUGUST 11 FLAGSTAFF

2009 is the International Year of Astronomy, and the best place to catch a star is Lowell Observatory. This month, the Perseid meteor shower comes into view around mid-August, and during its peak on August 11, the rate of visible meteors will reach 60 or more per hour. Lowell offers an indoor presentation on this annual meteor shower, which has been observed for more than 2,000 years. *Information:* 928-774-3285 or [www.lowell.edu](http://www.lowell.edu).

**Eagar Daze**

JULY 31-AUGUST 1 EAGAR

Head to the cool White Mountains to celebrate the ranching and logging heritage of the area. The annual Eagar Daze celebration features a logging contest (one of the few in the Southwest), a Dutch-oven cook-off, arts and crafts, rodeo events, volleyball, horseshoes, homemade ice cream, barbecue, entertainment, games and more. *Information:* 928-333-4128 or [www.eagar.com](http://www.eagar.com).



QUINN GREEN

# MIND IF WE TAG ALONG?

The state of Arizona gave us our own license plate, and we'd like you to take us for a ride.



To order an official Arizona Highways license plate, visit [www.arizonahighways.com](http://www.arizonahighways.com) and click the license plate icon on our home page. Proceeds help support our mission of promoting tourism in Arizona.



ARIZONA  
HIGHWAYS





# Best of

# AZ

OUR FIRST-EVER GUIDE TO THE BEST OF EVERYTHING

IN ARIZONA, FROM  
ECO-FRIENDLY ACCOM-  
MODATIONS TO SECRET  
HIDEAWAYS AND MARGA-  
RITAS. THE LATTER, BY  
THE WAY, COME COURTESY  
OF ROGER CLYNE, THE  
TEMPE-BASED ROCK STAR.  
CY YOUNG AWARD-WINNER  
BRANDON WEBB PITCHED

IN ON THIS PIECE AS WELL,  
AND SO DID NFL REFEREE  
ED HOCHULI. SOME OF THE  
CHOICES YOU’LL AGREE  
WITH. OTHERS, PROBABLY  
NOT. EITHER WAY, THIS IS  
OUR TAKE ON THE “BEST OF  
ARIZONA.”

BY JOCELYN BURAS,  
ROGER CLYNE,  
AMANDA FRUZYNSKI,  
ED HOCHULI,  
KELLY KRAMER,  
ROBERT STIEVE  
& BRANDON WEBB

## BEST RETURN TO MOTHER NATURE

**Fossil Creek** — Mazatzal Wilderness, near Strawberry: For more than a century, 95 percent of the temperate waters of Fossil Creek were diverted to the Childs-Irving hydroelectric facilities near Strawberry. On June 18, 2005, APS decommissioned the power plants and returned full flow of Fossil Creek’s stream. That led to major opportunities for riparian revitalization, including the development of a native fish restoration project. Researchers from Northern Arizona University have collected data about the creek’s flow rates and natural travertine development, while other revitalization partners have worked to assess possible future recreational uses for the area. *Information: [www.watershed.nau.edu/fossilcreekproject](http://www.watershed.nau.edu/fossilcreekproject).*

NICK BEREZENKO



## BEST COVER MATERIAL

In June, we featured a portfolio by Wes Timmerman. The feedback was incredible, including this, from one of our longtime photographers: “It’s probably the most beautiful, most striking, most memorable portfolio I have ever seen in *Arizona Highways*.” With that kind of praise, it only made sense to go back to Wes for our “best of” cover. So we did.



## BEST ROOM WITH A VIEW

**El Tovar, Suite 6492** — South Rim, Grand Canyon National Park: Waking up to miles of crimson, burnt orange and blue-gray spires, buttes and mesas will put a lot more pep in those first steps of the day than a standard cup of coffee. Starting the day on a breathtaking note is easy at El Tovar, perched atop the Grand Canyon's South Rim. Any view from the hotel is amazing, but Suite 6492 is one of three rooms with killer views. Its private balcony faces northward across the Canyon — less than 50 yards from its edge. *Information: 888-297-2757 or [www.grandcanyonlodges.com](http://www.grandcanyonlodges.com).*



PAULA JANSEN

KERRICK JAMES



## BEST PLACE FOR STARGAZING WHEN YOU CAN'T SLEEP

**Astronomer's Inn** — Benson: The Vega-Bray in Benson may be one of the only observatories that can offer a nice bed to sleep in and a full hot breakfast. The Astronomer's Inn houses the observatory, as well as four themed guestrooms (guests in the Galaxy Room sleep under the watchful eyes of a Han Solo cardboard cutout). The inn offers stargazing packages that make use of their impressive telescope inventory and cater to guests' interests and level of knowledge. *Information: 520-586-7906 or [www.astronomersinn.com](http://www.astronomersinn.com).*

## BEST REASON TO CROSS THE CREEK

**Garland's Oak Creek Lodge** — Oak Creek Canyon: With the possible exception of El Tovar, which has the unfair advantage of being perched on the edge of the Seventh Natural Wonder, Garland's Oak Creek Lodge is arguably the most scenic place to spend a night in Arizona. Located "across the creek" in the heart of Oak Creek Canyon, Garland's is surrounded by millions of years of red-rock geology, towering pines, hearty oaks and a healthy dose of pioneer history. The accommodations and dinner menu are even more impressive. *Information: 928-282-3343 or [www.garlandslodge.com](http://www.garlandslodge.com).*

## BEST ECO-FRIENDLY ACCOMMODATIONS

**Paca de Paja** — Tucson: The first bed and breakfast in Arizona to be added to the National Green Pages, this owner-built beacon of eco-architecture boasts a straw-bale infrastructure, evaporative cooling, low-impact design and native-plant landscaping. Guests at the inn can enjoy expansive desert views, hiking and mountain biking. Each morning an array of homemade breads, quiche and burritos is served and can be enjoyed near the local watering hole where javelinas and other wildlife frequently visit. *Information: 520-822-2065 or [www.pacadepaja.com](http://www.pacadepaja.com).*



FRANK ZULLO



ROBERT McDONALD

## BEST PLACE TO SLEEP NEAR AN OPEN MEADOW

**Hannagan Campground**: The epitome of relaxation may very well be sleeping in a wide-open meadow. Of course, a nap in Hannagan Meadow might get interrupted by a wandering elk, but it's still worth the trip on U.S. Route 191. The meadow itself is fenced off and only open for day use, but provides visitors with the rare opportunity to see a Mexican gray wolf, as well as an abundance of wildflowers. Nearby, Hannagan Campground is the place for overnight sleeping in the area. A night there makes for perfect stargazing. *Information: 928-339-5000.*

## BEST PLACE TO TAKE A PHOTOGRAPH THAT'LL IMPRESS YOUR FRIENDS IN EAST LANSING

**Red Rock Crossing** — Sedona: Located south of the city, Cathedral Rock serves as an icon of the Southwest and a picturesque backdrop to Red Rock Crossing, arguably the most photographed destination in Arizona — other than the Grand Canyon. Best photographed from the Crescent Moon Picnic Area, Cathedral Rock and its surroundings are postcard-perfect, so much so that the unparalleled red hues and crisp blue skies behind them will undoubtedly make winter-weary Midwesterners green with envy. *Information: [www.fs.fed.us/r3/coconino/recreation/red\\_rock/rec\\_redrock](http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/coconino/recreation/red_rock/rec_redrock).*

## BEST CLASSROOM ACCOMMODATIONS

**Noftsgger Hill Inn** — Globe: Falling asleep in class is rarely a good thing — a notebook-paper pillow, the glaring eye of the teacher, the hard seat underneath and the arm cramp from awkward positioning. But the classrooms at Noftsgger Hill are made for more. Beneath long chalkboards are perfect, expansive beds. Rosalie and Dom Ayala took the expansive, two-story schoolhouse on a Globe hilltop and turned it into a bed and breakfast in 2001. Now, former students and teachers return on a regular basis, bringing back old class photos, lesson plans and report cards. *Information: 928-425-2260 or [www.noftsggerhillinn.com](http://www.noftsggerhillinn.com).*





## BEST OPPORTUNITY TO STAND IN THE SETTING OF A JOHN WAYNE MOVIE

**Monument Valley** — Navajo Nation: Only the towering buttes and majestic monoliths of Monument Valley could have measured up to the statuesque form of John Wayne. These two epic characters lit up several movie screens and became quintessentially “Western” from the moment Wayne first rode across the vast landscape in the 1939 film *Stagecoach*. Wayne and the valley came together again in *Fort Apache*, *Rio Grande* and *The Searchers*. Take multiple hiking and vehicle tours through the area, or drive yourself across Indian Route 6485 from U.S. Route 160, near Kayenta. *Information: 928-871-6647 or [www.navajonationparks.org/htm/monumentvalley.htm](http://www.navajonationparks.org/htm/monumentvalley.htm).*

## BEST PLACE TO APPRECIATE FILM

**Kolb Studio** — South Rim, Grand Canyon National Park: Digital cameras have proved their worth — even some of our hardcore holdouts have made the switch, including Gary Ladd, who did his first digital shot for us in June. Still, there’s something special about film, and one of the best places to appreciate that format is Kolb Studio at the Grand Canyon. Brothers Emery and Ellsworth Kolb made livings and made history by photographing visitors to the South Rim. Today, their studio/home is open to tourists and features revolving exhibits of Grand Canyon photography, as well as showings of the project that put the Kolbs on the map — a movie of their 1912 adventure down the Colorado River. *Information: 928-638-2481 or [www.grandcanyon.org](http://www.grandcanyon.org).*

## BEST PLACE TO MEET MR. WRIGHT

**Taliesin West** — Scottsdale: The counterpart to master architect Frank Lloyd Wright’s Taliesin in Wisconsin, Taliesin West is both a museum and home to the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation’s School of Architecture. Nestled at the base of the McDowell Mountains, Taliesin West might just be the jewel of the Sonoran Desert, as well as offering a striking homage to the master, reflecting his philosophy that “the desert abhors the straight, hard line.” *Information: 480-860-2700 or [www.franklloydwright.org](http://www.franklloydwright.org).*

## BEST PLACE TO FEEL LIKE YOU’VE LANDED IN A COEN BROTHERS MOVIE

**Quartzsite:** With a population of about 3,600 people and a setting that’s more “Arizona rustic” than “Arizona modern,” the tiny town of Quartzsite is a rockhound’s dream. In fact, more than 15 gem and mineral shows take place there each year, and that’s why the brothers Coen might consider it for an upcoming film. Like the Arizona portrayed in the Coens’ *Raising Arizona* or the North Dakota they captured in *Fargo*, Quartzsite is chock-full of quirky characters. The Colorado River lies only 17 miles west, and the Kofa, New Water and Plomosa mountains provide the only visual relief to an otherwise dusty scene. *Information: 928-927-4333 or [www.ci.quartzsite.az.us](http://www.ci.quartzsite.az.us).*

## BEST PLACE TO TAKE A 10-YEAR-OLD OBSESSED WITH LUKE SKYWALKER

**Pima Air & Space Museum** — Tucson: So maybe Luke, Darth and Chewbacca were all figments of George Lucas’ imagination, but one thing is certain: The space race was real, and Arizona played a major role in it. At Tucson’s Pima Air & Space Museum, young stargazers can explore the “Space Gallery,” an exhibit entirely dedicated to space exploration. It includes a training version of an Apollo space capsule, a space-race timeline and an interactive exhibit about the Phoenix Mars Mission. The museum also houses more than 125,000 aircraft and spacecraft artifacts. *Information: 520-574-0462 or [www.pimaair.org](http://www.pimaair.org).*

## BEST EXAMPLE OF “ANYTHING A MAN CAN DO A WOMAN CAN DO BETTER”

**Desert View Watchtower** — South Rim, Grand Canyon National Park: When architect Mary Jane Colter was commissioned by the Fred Harvey Co. to design a gift shop and rest area at Desert View in 1932, there were no visions of tacky bathrooms or rest-stop kitsch in her mind. Colter always designed with a sense of the surrounding area. That’s why the Watchtower seems to have been formed right along with the Grand Canyon below it.

Colter allegedly handpicked each stone herself, and the final product is filled with Indian art as an homage to the prehistoric ruins that dot the Southwest. *Information: 928-638-7888 or [www.nps.gov/grca](http://www.nps.gov/grca).*



CHUCK LAWSEN

## BEST PLACE NAME

**Bloody Basin** — off Interstate 17: There are a few theories as to the baptism of Bloody Basin, southeast of Cordes Junction. One theory claims that several bloody Indian battles led to the designation, while another espouses the idea that a lot of misguided sheep fell from a nearby bridge into the basin below. Neither version is pretty, but they both provide an air of mystery to the otherwise common area.



JACK DYKINGA

## BEST OPPORTUNITY TO SLEEP WHERE AN OSCAR-WINNING MOVIE WAS MADE

**Hotel Monte Vista** — Flagstaff: More than a few ghosts allegedly roam this historic Flagstaff hotel, but at one point Humphrey Bogart wandered the halls — the real Bogie, not just a spectre. The hotel hallway scene in the movie *Casablanca* was filmed at the Monte Vista, outside room 408. Bogart also used this and room 409 many times in his career. *Casablanca* went on to win an Oscar, while the Monte Vista went on to temporarily house many other celebrities when they passed through Flagstaff. *Information: 928-779-6971 or [www.hotelmontevista.com](http://www.hotelmontevista.com).*

## BEST WAY TO GET EDWARD ABBEY’S PERSPECTIVE

**Atascosa Fire Lookout** — near Nogales: Climbing along the Tumacacori Highlands to the famed fire lookout where writer and naturalist Edward Abbey spent the summer of 1968, the Atascosa Trail provides sweeping 360-degree views. Although the lookout at the top of the trail is unmaintained by the Forest Service, it does provide insight into Abbey’s *Confessions of a Barbarian*, which he penned in part during his time as a seasonal fire lookout. About the view-point, he wrote, “Woke up this morning on an island in the sky, surrounded by clouds.” *Information: 520-281-2296 or [www.fs.fed.us/r3/coronado/forest/recreation/trails/atascosa.shtml](http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/coronado/forest/recreation/trails/atascosa.shtml).*



## BEST MOUNTAIN TOWN THAT RHYMES WITH BEER

**Greer:** Whether you’re sick of the desert’s summer heat or just looking for a change of scenery, Greer is a quiet getaway to beat all getaways. The small White Mountains town is cool in the summer, crisp in the spring and fall and stunningly powder-dusted come winter, and there’s plenty to do, too, from hiking and horseback riding to fishing, wildlife watching and cross-country skiing. *Information: [www.greerarizona.com](http://www.greerarizona.com).*



DAVID H. SMITH



## BEST WAY TO BEAT THE HEAT

**Snowbowl Scenic Skyride** — near Flagstaff: During the summer months, Snowbowl's chairlift is transformed into a ride for the scenically inclined. Creeping to an elevation of 11,500 feet, the Skyride is a great way to capture panoramic views that, on a clear day, can stretch for nearly 70 miles. Forest Service interpretive specialists are available at the top of the lift to answer any number of questions about the area's biology, ecology and geology. *Information:* [www.arizonasnowbowl.com/summer/skyride.php](http://www.arizonasnowbowl.com/summer/skyride.php).

## BEST KITCHEN WITHOUT ANY APPLIANCES

**Betty's Kitchen Interpretive Trail** — Yuma: Betty's Kitchen does indeed have everything but the kitchen sink. Almost everything, that is, in terms of Arizona wildlife. The half-mile interpretive trail winds along a river bottom that's thick with native plants and features a number of interpretive signs that explain the area's inhabitants, including an abundance of birds — spotted sandpipers, American coots and Harris' hawks, to name a few. *Information:* [www.blm.gov/az/st/en/prog/recreation/hiking/betty\\_kitch.html](http://www.blm.gov/az/st/en/prog/recreation/hiking/betty_kitch.html).

## BEST COMEBACK

**The California Condor:** Condors were a dime a dozen during prehistoric times, and even resided in the Grand Canyon. But just as mastodons and sabertooth tigers became extinct during the late Pleistocene era, condor numbers deteriorated, too. During the mid-1880s to mid-1920s, reports of condors in Arizona were scattered, and by 1982, only 22 of the massive scavengers were known to exist — and only in California. Thanks to a major effort by the Arizona Game and Fish Department, however, condors are the comeback kids of the avian world and are being reintroduced by captive breeding each year into the Vermilion Cliffs and Grand Canyon areas. *Information:* [www.azgfd.gov/w\\_c/california\\_condor.shtml](http://www.azgfd.gov/w_c/california_condor.shtml).

### Honorable Mention:

**The Arizona Cardinals: From a five-win, 11-loss season in 2006 to Super Bowl contenders in 2008. Enough said.**



## BEST FLIGHT DEMONSTRATION

**Raptor Show, Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum** — Tucson: For the "Raptor Free Flight" demonstration at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, cages have been cast aside so visitors can see birds of prey glide, flap, pinwheel and dart in their natural habitat. The program began in 1996 with three Harris' hawks, and has since expanded to 17 birds, including five more species of raptors: the ferruginous hawk, grey hawk, prairie falcon, great horned owl and barn owl. *Information:* 520-883-2702 or [www.desertmuseum.org](http://www.desertmuseum.org).

## BEST EXAMPLE OF BALD IS BEAUTIFUL

**Mount Baldy** — near Greer: Consider Mount Baldy the slightly shorter sibling of Humphreys Peak. Although it's the highest point in the White Mountains, Baldy tops out at 11,420 feet and is so named because the peak rises barren above the tree line, devoid of most vegetation — sort of like one of the domes in a Hair Club for Men commercial. But that doesn't mean that bald isn't beautiful, baby. In fact, hikers can soak in stunning views of the surrounding area and the West Fork of the Little Colorado River, but because the peak is on the Fort Apache Reservation, adventurers without a permit can only ascend to a slightly shorter subpeak. *Information:* [www.wmonline.com](http://www.wmonline.com).

## BEST DIESEL-POWERED SIGHTSEEING: PART 1

**Verde Canyon Railroad** — Clarkdale: Nicknamed "Arizona's longest-running nature show," the Verde Canyon Railroad carries passengers from Clarkdale to the ghost town of Perkinsville and back, running between two national forests and a wilderness area, thus the moniker and the only opportunity to soak in some of the state's most pristine scenery. Expert narrators and open-air gondolas are also part of the package, which takes place in railroad cars appropriately decorated with images of bald eagles, popular Verde Canyon residents. *Information:* 800-320-0718 or [www.verdecanyonrr.com](http://www.verdecanyonrr.com).

## BEST DIESEL-POWERED SIGHTSEEING: PART 2

**Grand Canyon Railway** — Williams to Grand Canyon's South Rim: In 1901, the Grand Canyon

Railway made its first trip, transporting tourists and researchers from Williams to the grand gulch. Although automobile travel eclipsed the need for the railway by 1968, it was reborn in 1989. Today, it transports more than 200,000 visitors to the Canyon each year, some of whom prefer to get there on the "Polar Express," a special GCR ride that runs during the holiday season. This year, couples celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary or folks celebrating their 50th birthday can ride the train for free — in celebration of the anniversary of the railway's first diesel locomotives. *Information:* 800-843-8724 or [www.the.train.com](http://www.the.train.com).

## BEST PLACE TO CATCH A GLIMPSE OF AN ELEGANT TROGON

**Madera Canyon:** A long time ago, Madera Canyon provided timber to the city of Tucson, but now all that timber goes a long way in terms of hosting a slew of winged residents. Home to more than 240 species of birds, including 12 species of hummingbirds, the canyon is best accessed via the streamside Madera Nature Trail, and the private Santa Rita Lodge is happy to provide visitors with a bird-watchers' list. That list will undoubtedly include the foot-long elegant trogon, whose vibrant red and green plumage make it one of the most conspicuous canyon residents. *Information:* [www.fs.fed.us/r3/coronado/forest/recreation/scenic\\_drives/mader\\_cyn.shtml](http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/coronado/forest/recreation/scenic_drives/mader_cyn.shtml).



C.K. LORENZ

GEORGE ANDREIKO



## BEST PLACE TO MAYBE SEE A WOLF

**Blue Range Primitive Area:** The last designated primitive area in the United States and so dubbed in 1933, the Blue Range Primitive Area's 173,762 acres are rugged, wild and wolf-friendly. At least that was the case when Aldo Leopold walked the woods. And thanks to a massive conservation effort by the Arizona Game and Fish Department, wolves have made a comeback in the area. Elusive and crafty, they have plenty of places to hide ... the area, after all, is primitive and full of dense trees, shrubs and boulders. *Information:* [www.fs.fed.us/r3/asnf/recreation/trails/alpine\\_trails/trl\\_blu\\_list.shtml](http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/asnf/recreation/trails/alpine_trails/trl_blu_list.shtml).

## BEST REASON TO VISIT A GIANT PUDDLE

**Flight of the Cranes** — Willcox: In January, there are a lot of wings over Willcox, and we're not talking about airplanes. We're talking about sandhill cranes. Thanks to large quantities of water that pool between January and March in the Willcox Playa Wildlife Area, approximately 20,000 of the birds bed down for the night in the wetlands, resulting in an overwhelming cacophony of squawks when the birds take off at sunrise. During the annual Wings Over Willcox celebration, bird-watchers can get their fill of feathers, whether on their own or on a guided tour. *Information:* 800-200-2272.



TOM VEZO





ROBERT McDONALD

## BEST PLACE TO HIKE WITH THE GHOST OF LEOPOLD

**Escudilla Wilderness Area:** On the list of great conservationists in the history of the United States, you'll find names like John Muir, Rachel Carson and even John Denver. Perhaps the greatest of all, however, is Aldo Leopold, who spent a lot of time in Arizona and wrote some of his most influential essays here. One place in particular is the Escudilla Wilderness in Eastern Arizona, which, other than the effects of a fire or two, hasn't changed much since the great man walked through the woods. *Information:* 928-339-5000 or [www.fs.fed.us/r3/asnf](http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/asnf).

## BEST FESTIVAL NAMED FOR A LYRIC WRITTEN BY JACKSON BROWNE

**'Standin' on a Corner Festival** — Winslow: It's been 37 years since The Eagles debuted their classic hit, *Take It Easy*, on May 1, 1972, but the town of Winslow is still paying tribute to the multiplatinum song that made the band famous. Currently in its 11th year, the Standin' on a Corner Festival is held in late September and features local rock favorites, as well as food and crafts vendors. *Information:* [www.standinonthecorner.com](http://www.standinonthecorner.com).

## BEST SONG NAMED FOR AN ARIZONA HIGHWAY

**"Carefree Highway"** by Gordon Lightfoot: On October 5, 1974, Gordon Lightfoot cracked the Top 10 for the third time with *Carefree Highway*, which was inspired by the no-longer-laid-back route in Phoenix. The song's not as impressive as *The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald*, but we'll take it. By the way, we like *Get Your Kicks on Route 66*, too.

## BEST PLACE FOR SOME COOL BLUEGRASS

**White Mountain Bluegrass Festival** — Pine-top: If sounds of the fiddle, mandolin and banjo are your musical cup of tea, be sure to mark Pinetop's weekend bluegrass festival on your calendar. Performances by bands with names like Igor's Jazz Cowboys and Tangled Strings are guaranteed to entertain at this family friendly event. Festivities kick off August 7 and will include workshops, children's activities and an option for nightly "camping under the pines," as well as all those fine bluegrass ditties. *Information:* 928-367-4290 or [www.pinetoplakesidechamber.com](http://www.pinetoplakesidechamber.com).

## BEST BRITISH IMPORT SINCE JOHN, PAUL, GEORGE AND RINGO

**London Bridge** — Lake Havasu City: The tiny Western Arizona city of Lake Havasu owns the original London Bridge. That's right, *that* London Bridge. The acquisition occurred in 1962, when Londoners discovered that the historic overpass was crumbling into the Thames River. Lake Havasu City founder Robert P. McCullough decided to bid on the bridge at auction and won, spending a grand total of \$7 million to transport it to Arizona in 1968. And that was no easy feat — it required the careful dismantling of the bridge and shipping across the pond. By 1971, however, the bridge was reconstructed, and although it's no Abbey Road, it's been a point of interest ever since. *Information:* 800-242-8278 or [www.golakehavasu.com](http://www.golakehavasu.com).

## BEST REST ROOM

**The rest room at the Navajo Bridge Interpretive Center on State Route 89A:** Taking a trip across the state will undoubtedly

include some bathroom experiences that are best forgotten. But one restroom is worth remembering. The Navajo Bridge Interpretive Center opened in April 1997 with a uniquely eco-friendly public bathroom. The self-composting toilets sit above woodchips and enzymes that take care of waste. They're low-maintenance, and most people don't even know the restroom is basically an outhouse until they realize it's nonflushing. Dispensers of hand sanitizer replace traditional sinks in this completely waterless restroom. *Information:* Open daily, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., April through October; 928-355-2319.

## BEST BACKDROP FOR A MUSIC FESTIVAL

**Grand Canyon National Park:** Since 1983, Arizona's most lauded canyon has served as a backdrop for the annual Grand Canyon Music Festival. Situated amid the striking cliffs and lofty pines, the event is a casual, come-as-you-are affair, where concertgoers can soak up the breathtaking natural beauty of the Canyon while relaxing to the sounds of world-class musicians. If the venue alone isn't enough, the selection of music is sure to please — the event features classical, blues, jazz, folk and rock melodies. The festival spans three weeks in September, with midweek and weekend concerts. *Information:* [www.grandcanyonmusicfest.org](http://www.grandcanyonmusicfest.org).



DOU B. AND RYAN B. STEVENSON

PAUL MARKOW



## ROGER CLYNE Tempe-Based Recording Artist

### BEST PLACE IN ARIZONA TO BUY A PAIR OF BOOTS?

Depending on your mood, I recommend either the custom moc-casin-makers at the **Arizona Renaissance Festival** or, if you're in the mood for more Western/traditional footwear, go to **Paul Bond Boot Co.'s** warehouse in Nogales. Both have amazing models, but you'll need to be patient. Each is a specialist, and you'll have to wait for your custom order. I'm still trying to decide which to order ...

### BEST PLACE IN ARIZONA TO GET A KILLER MARGARITA AND TACO?

Another split decision: Best taco — Go to **Mucho Gusto Taqueria and Mexican Bistro** in Tempe and order a fish taco on the patio. Best margarita — Visit **Tres Margaritas**, also in Tempe, and request the "Original." Bring a friend, tell the staff I sent you, and don't endeavor to drive if you've had more than two. Better yet, ride a bike.

### BEST PLACE IN ARIZONA TO HANG YOUR HAT?

I love **Hotel Congress** in Tucson. Eat at **El Minuto**, just down the road, catch a show and tip big. The ruckus in the hall after the concert is over is still part of the main event. Enjoy and/or join in! *Salud!*

### BEST PLACE IN ARIZONA TO WATCH A CONCERT?

**Celebrity Theater** in Phoenix. Every seat is a great seat; each note is nectar!

### BEST PLACE IN ARIZONA TO GIVE A CONCERT?

**Celebrity Theater.** From the stage, there is no seam between the band and the audience.

### BEST PLACE IN ARIZONA TO GET INSPIRED?

Each time I visit, the **Whetstone Mountains** whisper secrets to me.

### BEST PLACE IN ARIZONA TO BEAT THE SUMMER HEAT?

The daily squirt-gun-water-balloon meleé at the **Clyne Casa** is, for me, the coolest place to be!





## BEST PLACE TO HAVE YOUR AWE INSPIRED

**Point Sublime** — Grand Canyon National Park: Whoever baptized this westernmost North Rim view-point must have been both a realist and a romantic. A rugged two-hour drive leads to the point, which provides 270-degree views of the Canyon and, distantly, the Colorado River. Although the Canyon views will undoubtedly take your breath away, the drive itself is nothing to scoff at — it progresses from pine forest to piñon juniper and cactus quickly as it approaches Point Sublime's tabletop plateau. Be sure, though, to travel in a high-clearance vehicle that's equipped with a spare tire and other emergency equipment. *Information:* [www.nps.gov/archive/grca/grandcanyon/north-rim](http://www.nps.gov/archive/grca/grandcanyon/north-rim).

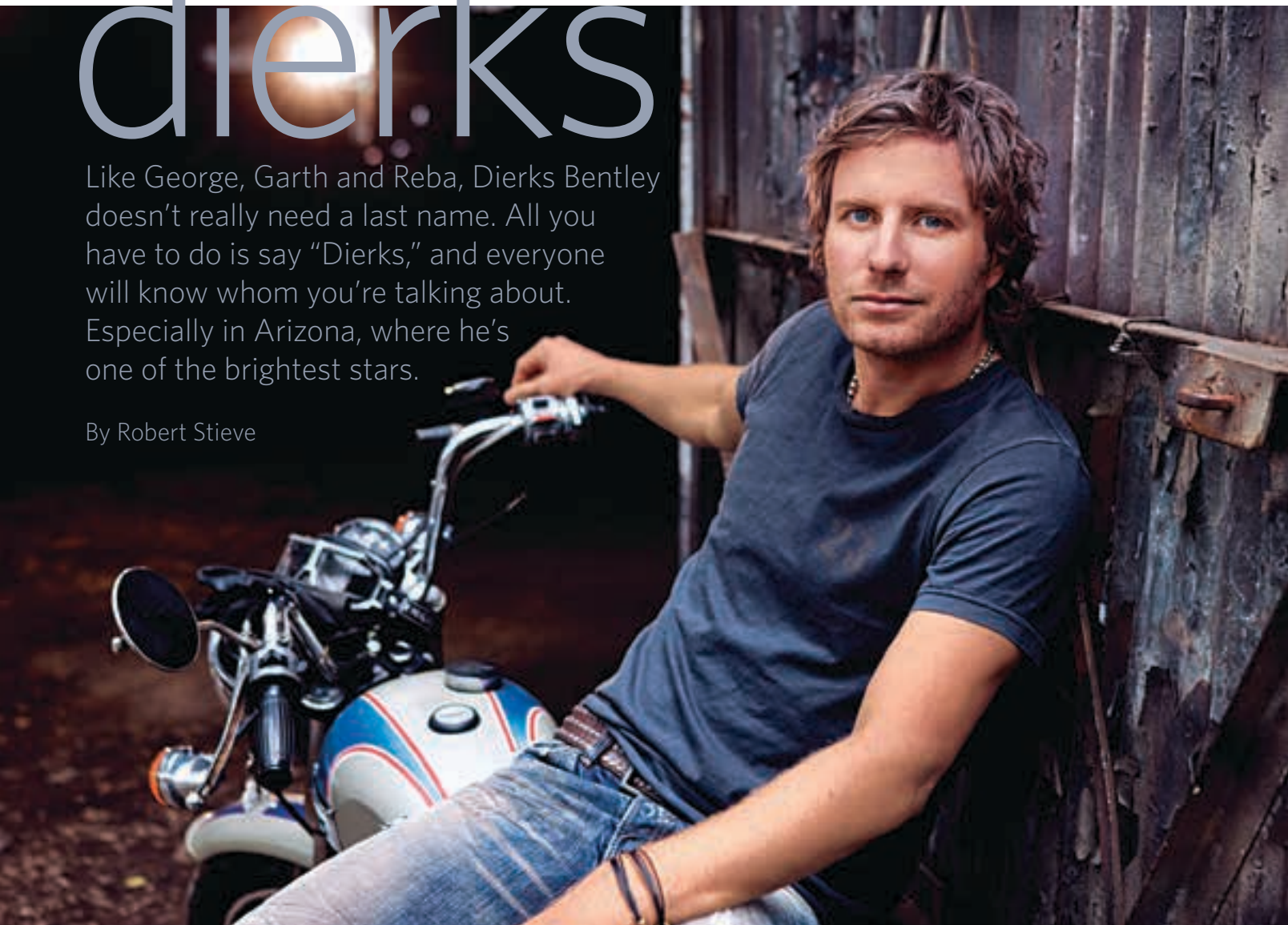
CONTINUED ON PAGE 28



# dierks

Like George, Garth and Reba, Dierks Bentley doesn't really need a last name. All you have to do is say "Dierks," and everyone will know whom you're talking about. Especially in Arizona, where he's one of the brightest stars.

By Robert Stieve



JIM WRIGHT

Talking to Dierks is like talking to a brother. Or somebody hiking in the Canyon. Or a guy sitting on a barstool at the Rusty Spur. He's laid-back, unassuming ... just another dude (one of his favorite words). There's no evidence of the multiplatinum stardom, the Grammy nominations, the six No. 1 hits (and counting), the double-digit top-10s or the prestigious CMA Horizon Award. Indeed, there's a long list of reasons to include Dierks Bentley in *Arizona Highways'* first-ever "Best of Arizona" issue, but near the top is his down-to-earth disposition. He's a good guy — one of the state's brightest stars.

The last time I talked to Dierks, he was on his bus, headed toward Flagstaff on Interstate 17. He'd been in Paradise Valley with his wife, Cassidy (another Arizona native), and their infant daughter, Evie (rhymes with Chevy). Just before he called, he'd been doing what most people do as they cruise through Arizona: He was taking pictures. Lots of pictures. No matter how many times you've seen Lake Powell or Sedona or the San Francisco Peaks, you can't help being impressed. Dierks is no different. He's seen it for himself, and he hears it all the time.

"I travel around the world," he says, "and people are in love with the idea of the West — not just country music, but the rugged individualism that exists out here. It's a world that's so foreign to

them, whether it's Monument Valley or Route 66."

Of course, he doesn't need a fan in Australia or Germany or Japan to tell him about the mystique and the natural beauty of the Grand Canyon State. He grew up here.

"I have some great memories of going to Lake Powell as a kid," Dierks says. "Every summer we'd take the Sea Ray to the lake for six or seven days. I remember packing the '71 Suburban with gallons and gallons of extra gas — the tongue of the trailer would be just inches from the ground. We changed a lot of flat tires, but it was great."

His mother agrees. "We went to a beautiful 'secret spot' on Lake Powell for 25 years," says Cathy Bentley. "We'd camp

and go waterskiing ... that's where Dierks learned to drive a boat. We always went in June, right after school got out, and sometimes we'd go a second time in late July or August."

As you'd expect, Cathy is proud of her son — the day I talked to her for this story, she'd just gotten home from cleaning out Safeway's supply of *Country Weekly*, which had featured Dierks on the cover. Her husband, Leon, shares her pride. That said, the Bentleys are equally proud of Dierks' older sister, Vanessa, and his younger brother, Fife. Although Dierks gets most of the headlines, at home, he's simply the middle child. Just like it was when he was growing up in the shadow of Camelback Mountain.

Unlike Shooter Jennings and Hank Williams Jr., Dierks Bentley wasn't raised on country music. "Billy Idol was his favorite as a kid," Cathy says.

"Dierks never listened to country music. We didn't have any tapes or CDs. When his dad would take him to school, Dierks would flip through the channels on the radio, and that's where he got his first exposure to country music."

Although neither of his parents are musical, per se, Dierks was attracted to the art form long before he started channel surfing with his dad.

"In third grade, he was a member of the Super Singers," Cathy says. "They'd sing patriotic songs at the malls — even then he had a good voice. By the eighth grade, he'd gotten a guitar, thinking it would be something he could do by himself, without his brother or sister. So, he took some lessons in high school, and got hooked on playing."

He also got hooked on listening — he went to concerts every chance he could get.

"The first concert I ever saw was Skid Row," Dierks says. "They opened for Bon Jovi. I was in eighth grade, and my parents

wouldn't let me go see Billy Idol. The most meaningful concert was Garth Brooks at [U.S. Airways Center]. I was 17, and I took my 7-year-old brother."

Between the concerts and the guitar lessons, Dierks continued to master the role of the middle child.

"As a middle child he was a little devious," his mother explains. "Like the time I found cigarettes in his room, and he claimed to be 'guarding them for a friend.' Or the time he asked to borrow my MasterCard so he could buy fireworks from Wisconsin."

"He also liked to ride go-karts in the desert," she adds. "It was a big deal to him. He and his friends would go out riding with their BB guns. I'm sure some of that was because of *The Dukes of Hazzard*."

She's probably right. That '80s show, along with *Hee Haw*, was one of Dierks' favorites, and later inspired one of his many memorable lyrics — "hood-slidin' like Bo Duke," which comes from his debut single, *What Was I Thinkin'?*. Despite his good looks and melodic voice, Dierks is a songwriter first, and maybe that's why it was another set of lyrics — not his own — that ultimately led him into the world of country music. He had an epiphany, he says, when he first heard *Man to Man* by Hank Williams Jr. "Everything just clicked. It kind of felt like I suddenly knew what I was born to do."

Although he detoured through the University of Vermont — "more for the skiing and the cocktails than the math and the science," his mom says — he eventually made his way to Nashville.

"One day he called and asked if we'd make out his tuition check to another 'V' school," Cathy says. "We were thinking Vassar, and had our doubts. Then he said Vanderbilt. He went to school, but he was more intent on hanging out downtown in the country music clubs."

For the next 10 years, that's exactly what he did. He hung out, he listened and he learned. He also managed to get an internship at the Country Music Association, and a job in the tape room at the now-defunct TNN, where he had access to decades' worth of historic country music footage. "Dierks is a very focused individual," his mother says, and

*"We'd literally go out in the desert — back then it was only a 20-minute drive — and we'd set up camp, cook a turkey, ride horses, go four-wheeling. It was a great time."*

that focus paid off when Capitol Records took a chance and released his first album, which produced the No. 1 hit *What Was I Thinkin'?*.

Millions of albums and hundreds of thousands of touring miles later, Dierks Bentley is one of the most successful and relevant country singers in the business. Whether he's headlining a stadium show or touring with the likes of George Strait and Brad Paisley, Dierks has beat the odds. In a big way. His current album, *Feel That Fire*, debuted at the top of the country charts, and the title song by the same name went to No. 1 in the same week.

Beyond his Billboard success, Dierks was recently interviewed for the critically acclaimed PBS series, *Live From the Artists Den* — he's the first country performer to appear on the show. The hour-long program will air when the series returns in September. In addition, he was featured on the May/June cover of *American Songwriter* magazine.

The first time I met Dierks, I asked him about songwriting, and he told me it's as important as anything he does as an artist. He's proud of what he writes, and that cover story is validation of how talented he is. It's one more thing to add to the list.



Today, Dierks lives with Cassidy, Evie and their two dogs — Jake and George — in a three-story home a few blocks from Nashville's famed Music Row. "I'll tell you what's the key to this whole house," Dierks told *Country Weekly*. "I can walk to the studios where I do most of my work ... And when I'm gone, Cass can walk across the street to [a coffee and sandwich shop] ... She's got friends nearby, and she's able to be around spontaneous happenings, as opposed to being stuck in the middle of nowhere."

Nashville is where they live, but when they can, they come home to Arizona. "We try to get back every two or three months," Dierks says. "We use Suns games as an excuse. Sometimes we stay with my parents, sometimes we stay at a hotel. We're thinking of getting a place here."

He's proud of his Arizona roots, and the experiences he's had. While we were talking, I asked him about any childhood memories he'd like to re-create for his daughter. Turns out, it was an easy question. He went into vivid detail about the annual Thanksgiving pilgrimage his family would make to the desert. "We'd

literally go out in the desert — back then it was only a 20-minute drive — and we'd set up camp, cook a turkey, ride horses, go four-wheeling. It was a great time."

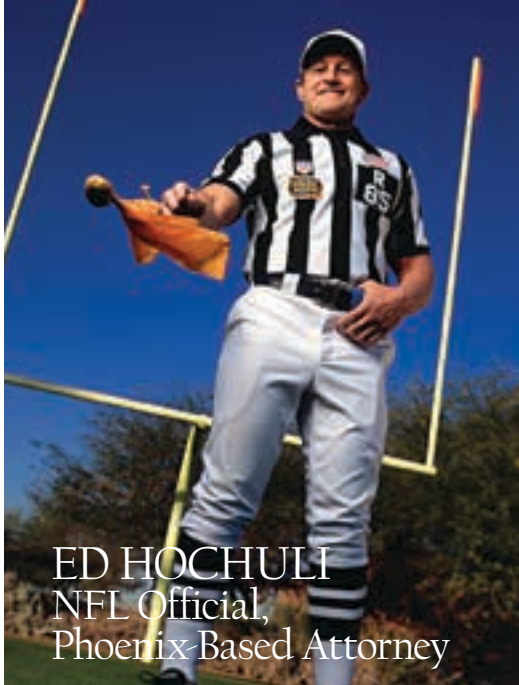
Although Evie is still less than a year old, knowing Dierks, it won't be long before she's indoctrinated into another one of her dad's favorite Arizona traditions: eating Mexican food.

"I love the cheese crisp at Teepee [in Phoenix]," he says. "And their burritos are more authentic than most places — not as much sauce. I worked construction for a while with some Mexican guys, and they'd bring me lunch sometimes. The burritos at Teepee are the real deal. Tortillas and meat. I could eat Mexican every day. After two or three days, I'm just getting warmed up."

The same is true of his skyrocketing career. And his life in general, for that matter. In a story that sounds too good to be true, the kid who used to sing at the mall is now selling out shows and selling millions of records, he's married to his exceedingly beautiful high-school sweetheart, they have an equally beautiful daughter ... life is definitely good for the laid-back, unassuming dude from Phoenix. And it couldn't have happened to a nicer guy. Right on, brother. You're one of Arizona's best. ■



JIM WRIGHT



PAUL MARKOW

## ED HOCHULI NFL Official, Phoenix-Based Attorney

### Best place in Arizona to toss around the football?

The football field at Canyon del Oro High School in Tucson, where I spent four of the most enjoyable years of my life. I was a Dorado from 1965-1969, and those football memories are still the best I have.

### Best way to impress a fellow NFL referee?

I'd put him in the car and drive north. The most amazing thing about Arizona is its diversity — from the deserts to the mountains to the red rocks of Sedona to the majestic Grand Canyon and on to the many beautiful lakes we have here. And if you're into golf, we do indeed have a course or two.

### Best place to grab a post-workout meal?

That's an easy one. My favorite food is sushi, and my favorite sushi bar and restaurant is Sushi Eye, on Elliott Road in Tempe. The food is always so fresh and delicious, and the people treat us like family.

### Best place to go for a weekend getaway?

Well, despite all the beautiful places I could name, such as Sedona, Flagstaff, Greens Peak, Canyon Lake or even Elgin, I'd go with my home in Ahwatukee. I'm on the road so much, that when I get a chance to just hang at home, enjoy the weather and South Mountain behind me, I really can't beat that.

### Best game scenario? In other words, if you could referee a game with any Arizona players — past or present — who would be on the field?

I've had the privilege of refereeing a game for the current NFC Champion Arizona Cardinals. That includes Kurt Warner, Larry Fitzgerald, Adrian Wilson, and so many more. But if I was going to add to that list, I'd have to include Neil Lomax, Roy Green, Aeneas Williams, and the greatest safety of all time, Larry Wilson. And don't forget Danny White (against whom I played in college), Jim Arneson, Eddie Wilson (who was my boyhood idol) and Teddy Bruschi, whose games I still officiate. However, the No. 1 Arizona great I'd include on that list would be Pat Tillman. Pat is a hero to all of us, but most importantly, Pat represents the thousands and thousands of brave men and women of our military who have died for us and who put their lives on the line for all of us every day.

## BEST ADRENALINE RUSH

**Skydiving at Eloy:** Some people get their kicks from working out. Others get them from a great meal or a killer bottle of wine. And then there are those who get their kicks by jumping out of a plane from 13,000 feet. If the third scenario suits you, Skydive Arizona, an Eloy-based company, can make your wildest dreams come true. First-time divers can take to the skies with a certified pro after a brief introductory session, while divers with more than a few jumps under their belt will appreciate the company's expert staff and "mega drop zone." Those who are more terrestrially inclined will appreciate the facility's pool, camping and RV hookups, and the Bent Prop Saloon & Cookery. *Information: 520-466-3753 or [www.skydiveaz.com](http://www.skydiveaz.com).*

## BEST REASON TO BLOW OFF THE STAIRMASTER

**Bisbee 1000 Stair Climb:** Who needs to conquer the gym when you can conquer 1,000 stairs at a mile-high altitude? Now in its 19th year, the Bisbee 1000 Stair Climb is part fitness challenge and part homage to Bisbee's historic stairways, many of which follow former mule paths used during the town's mining heyday. Within a few years of its debut, the event grew to include the Ice Man Competition, during which frostbite-immune fellows carry 10-pound blocks of ice in antique tongs up 155 steps. This year's event takes place October 17. *Information: [www.bisbee1000.org/index.htm](http://www.bisbee1000.org/index.htm).*

## BEST PLACE TO GET YOUR JOLLY

**Hi Jolly Monument** — Quartzsite: Hi Jolly knew how to handle a camel. In fact, the Greek-Syrian was one of the first camel drivers ever hired by the U.S. Army to lead a camel-driving experiment in the Southwest, and that's how he came to Arizona. After retiring from the "Camel Corps," Hi Jolly settled down, married Gertrudis Serna and attempted to start a freight business using a few remaining camels. When the business failed, he and the missus moved to Quartzsite, where he dabbled in mining and died in 1902. In 1935, Governor Benjamin Moeur commissioned a monument to Hi Jolly and the Camel Corps. It stands out among tombstones in the Quartzsite Cemetery as a pyramid topped with a copper camel.

## BEST INTERGALACTIC IMPORT

**Meteor Crater** — near Winslow: The Pima Air & Space Museum is a great place to explore space from an educational standpoint, but if you're into up-close-and-personal experiences with the stuff that space is made of, visit Meteor Crater. The massive hole, which has a diameter of approximately 4,000 feet, was created 50,000 years ago when a monster boulder made of nickel and iron came hurtling toward the Earth at a rate of almost 29,000 mph — sort of like a Randy Johnson fastball ... on kryptonite. After serving as a training post for NASA's moon-bound astronauts in the 1960s, the crater is now a popular tourist attraction. *Information: 800-289-5898 or [www.meteorcrater.com](http://www.meteorcrater.com).*

## BEST PLACE TO PRETEND YOU'RE ON THE MOON

**Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument** — near Flagstaff: It's no secret that volcanic eruptions over thousands and thousands of years ago played a major role in creating the Earth's topography as we know it today. One series of eruptions between the years A.D. 1040 and 1100 resulted in the formation of Sunset Crater and erased all signs of life within a 5-mile radius. Today, though, life re-emerges at the moonscape crater's boundaries, and hikers are treated to a stunning contrast of cinder fields and wildflower meadows. *Information: 928-526-0502 or [www.nps.gov/sucr](http://www.nps.gov/sucr).*

## BEST WAY TO SEE ARIZONA IN A WEEK

**Flying M Air's Southwest Circle Helicopter Adventure:** Seeing Arizona from the ground or a passenger car is one thing, but seeing it from the perspective of a big, red bird is entirely different. That's what makes Flying M Air's Southwest Circle Helicopter Adventure so intriguing. The six-day, five-night adventure travels from Phoenix to Sedona, from Sedona to the Grand Canyon, from the Grand Canyon to Lake Powell and Page, Page to Monument Valley and Monument Valley to Flagstaff, and includes accommodations at some of North-Central and Northern Arizona's finest hotels, as well as dining arrangements and side-trip opportunities. *Information: 928-231-0196 or [www.flyingmair.com/excursions/swcircle/](http://www.flyingmair.com/excursions/swcircle/).*



PATRICK FISCHER

## BEST PLACE TO GET BOXED IN

**Gila Box Riparian National Conservation Area** — near Safford: It's nearly impossible to get boxed in amid 23,000 acres, but if it were to happen, Gila Box Riparian National Conservation Area wouldn't be a terrible setting. Four waterways — the Gila and San Francisco rivers and Bonita and Eagle creeks — converge in the area, making it one of the most amazing desert oases around. Birds love it, as do bighorn sheep, and there are plenty of cliff dwellings and historic homesteads to explore, as well as countless sycamore-shaded picnic spots to enjoy. *Information: [www.blm.gov/az/st/en/prog/blm\\_special\\_areas/ncarea/gbox.html](http://www.blm.gov/az/st/en/prog/blm_special_areas/ncarea/gbox.html).*





RICHARD MAACK

## BEST WAY TO GET AN EDUCATION

**Grand Canyon Field Institute Classes:** The Grand Canyon Field Institute gives families a chance to truly explore the world's grandest canyon by offering classes in topics such as wilderness studies, photography, culture and natural history. And, because the Field Institute has strong relationships with the National Park Service, the classes are fully supported by the world's foremost Canyon experts. *Information: 866-471-4435 or [www.grandcanyon.org](http://www.grandcanyon.org).*

## BEST PLACE TO SEE THE WRITING ON THE WALL

**Along Chevelon Creek** — near Winslow: Right around Winslow, south-to-north-running Chevelon Creek joins forces with the Little Colorado River, where it continues its run north past Flagstaff. Here, ancient Sinagua and Puebloan people found a verdant swath of land on which to settle. Little remains of their civilizations, with the exception, of course, of the petroglyphs decorating nearby rock walls. Today, visitors to the area can get up-close-and-personal with images of deer, elk, lizards and, sometimes, the artists themselves. The creek can be accessed via several trails in the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests, including Telephone Ridge Trail 103, a difficult trek that descends into Chevelon Canyon just south of Chevelon Lake. *Information: 928-333-4301 or [www.fs.fed.us/r3/asnf/recreation/trails/black\\_mesa\\_rd/trl\\_chv\\_telephone.shtml](http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/asnf/recreation/trails/black_mesa_rd/trl_chv_telephone.shtml).*

## BEST PLACE TO STEP BACK IN TIME

**Pioneer Arizona Living History Museum** — 30 miles north of downtown Phoenix: It takes a village to ... build a historically accurate replica of Arizona in the 1800s. At least that's the philosophy behind Pioneer Living History Village. Just 30 minutes north of downtown Phoenix, the village is home to a blacksmith shop, barbershop, dress shop, jail, sheriff's office and a variety of vintage 1800s personalities, including lawmakers, lawbreakers and a lovely Victorian lady or two. *Information: 623-465-1821 or [www.pioneer-arizona.com/index.html](http://www.pioneer-arizona.com/index.html).*

## BEST PLACE TO STORM A CASTLE

**Montezuma Castle National Monument** — near Camp Verde: The Sinagua people were into making impressive high rises long before Donald Trump and Steve Wynn were. They built this 20-room home high on a limestone cliff approximately 1,000 years ago. Although visitors to the monument can no longer explore the actual dwelling, a short loop trail guides them through a grove of sycamores and past views from below the impressive remnants. *Information: 928-567-3322 or [www.nps.gov/moca](http://www.nps.gov/moca).*

## BEST PLACE TO GO UNDERGROUND

**Kartchner Caverns** — near Benson: Maybe you've never heard of Gary Tenen or Randy Tufts. Prior to 1978, it's unlikely that anyone had heard of James and Lois Kartchner, either, but that's the year Tenen and Tufts, two young cavers, notified the Kartchners that they'd discovered a remarkable limestone cave on their property. The cave plays host to an ever-growing assortment of stalactites and stalagmites formed by calcite layers of travertine, particularly in the "throne room," which is home to one of the world's longest soda straw stalactites, measuring a whopping 21 feet, 2 inches. The cave was purchased as an Arizona State Park in 1988, and today features campgrounds, a gift shop, an amphitheater and a hummingbird garden. *Information: 520-586-2283 or [www.azstateparks.com/parks/kaca](http://www.azstateparks.com/parks/kaca).*

## BEST PLACE TO REFLECT ON A BAD IDEA

**War Relocation Center** — Poston: During World War II, in a controversial move that's still debated today, the U.S. government placed more than 120,000 Japanese-Americans into 10 war relocation camps. Two of the largest were located in Arizona. The "Unity of Spirit" monument in Poston marks the site of one of the camps. The monument, which represents a Japanese stone lantern, is the only memorial that doesn't contain the words "concentration camp." *Information: 928-669-2174.*

## BEST PLACE OTHER THAN A RESERVATION TO LEARN ABOUT NATIVE CULTURE

**Heard Museum** — Phoenix: When Dwight and Maie Bartlett Heard founded the Heard Museum in 1929, Phoenix was just a tiny Southwestern town, but the couple understood and appreciated the area's Native American foundation. Today, the museum is the best place in the nation to experience Arizona's Native arts and cultures. Its 10 exhibition galleries feature a revolving palette of Latino and Native American art, while its permanent collection includes countless Native American baskets, jewelry and art. *Information: 602-252-8848 or [www.heard.org](http://www.heard.org).*

## BEST BOOKSTORE IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE

**Singing Wind Bookshop** — near Benson: In 1974, Winn Bundy stocked two bookshelves in her foyer with \$600 worth of books and word traveled quickly: The woman who had purchased Singing Wind Ranch was selling books there. People came from surrounding towns, and then, from all over the country, visiting Winn and her family and her dogs and, of course, her books. Now, she's 84, and Singing Wind Bookshop spans far more than a foyer, but it remains a favorite spot for bookworms who happily forgo the convenience of Border's for a genuine book-buying experience and the opportunity to share a glass of iced tea with the first lady of Southern Arizona ranching and bookselling. *Information: 520-586-2425.*



DON B. AND RYAN B. STEVENSON



JEFF KIDA

## BEST ARTWORK NOT IN A MUSEUM

**Mission San Xavier del Bac** — near Tucson: The "White Dove of the Desert" is no secret to architecture buffs. Located 9 miles south of Tucson, the mission rests on the site where, in 1700, Jesuit missionary Father Eusebio Francisco Kino laid the foundations for a church and named it in honor of his patron saint, St. Francis Xavier. The church that exists there today was built by Franciscan fathers Juan Bautista Velderrain and Juan Bautista Lorenz — with a lot of help from the local Tohono O'odham tribe — and is often cited as the finest example of mission architecture in the United States, constructed and decorated with a blend of Moorish, Byzantine and Mexican Renaissance styles. *Information: 520-294-2624 or [www.sanxaviermission.org](http://www.sanxaviermission.org).*

## BEST PLACE TO SURRENDER

**Geronimo Surrender Monument** — northeast of Douglas: When Geronimo and his dedicated band of followers fled the San Carlos Apache Reservation in 1885, they became the subjects of a manhunt that consumed a cavalry. As the Apaches made their way east toward New Mexico, General George Crook and his men tracked them, ultimately sending soldiers to guard water sources throughout the Chiricahua and Peloncillo mountains, San Simon and San Bernadino valleys and Skeleton Canyon. After Geronimo conditionally surrendered to Crook in early 1886, he fled to Mexico, leading to Crook's replacement by General Nelson Miles. By mid-July, Miles had tracked Geronimo and his band of "hostiles" to the banks of the Bavispe River. The group moved through Guadalupe Canyon to the San Bernadino Valley and into Skeleton Canyon, where the Apache leader made his final surrender. Today, a marker, near Apache off State Route 80, commemorates the event. *Information: 928-475-3213 or [www.sancarlosapache.com](http://www.sancarlosapache.com).*

## BEST PLACE TO BUY A MAMMOTH BONE

**Tucson Gem and Mineral Show:** The Tucson Gem and Mineral Society is big into bling — at least when it comes to presenting amazing exhibits at its annual show. From Brazilian rubellite tourmaline to various and sundry agates, amethysts, amber and ancient animal bones, the 55-year-old show is a gemologist's version of Disneyland. *Information: 520-322-5773 or [www.tgms.org](http://www.tgms.org).*

## BEST USE OF SPARE CHANGE

**Cup Café, Hotel Congress** — Tucson: See a penny, pick it up and all day long you'll have good luck ... except at Hotel Congress' Cup Café, where the pennies are part of the décor — the floor, to be exact. Although you may be distracted by the shine at your feet, don't forget to try the café's fare. From hearty breakfast entrees to dinner items from ribeye au poivre to vegan falafel, it's a tasty piece of Tucson that you won't want to miss. *Information: 520-798-1618 or [www.hotelcongress.com/cup](http://www.hotelcongress.com/cup).*



TYE FARRELL

## BEST PLACE TO BE IF YOU'RE FEELING BLUE AND GRAY

**Picacho Peak Civil War Re-Enactment:** Each spring, Civil War buffs descend on Picacho Peak State Park to re-enact the only Civil War skirmish that took place in Arizona. Although 2009 events were canceled due to staffing issues at the park, more than 150 re-enactors usually camp at the park during the two-day event, and they dress in authentic Civil War garb, demonstrate candle making, food preparation, laundering and, of course, re-enact the actual battle. *Information: [azstateparks.com/Parks/PIPE/index.html](http://azstateparks.com/Parks/PIPE/index.html).*



## BEST PIECE OF MEATLOAF

**Rendezvous Diner** — Greer: There's something particularly rustic about life in the White Mountains, and it is a characteristic that translates well into the local cuisine. Take, for instance, Greer's Rendezvous Diner. Built in 1909, the quaint little restaurant, which has been in business for a little more than 30 years, is one of the town's oldest buildings, and prides itself on down-home, homemade cooking. The simple menu features soups, sandwiches and chef-owner Pauline Merrill's famous, just-like-mom-used-to-make-it meatloaf. *Information: 928-735-7483.*

## BEST PLACE TO BE A LOCAVORE

**Canela Bistro** — Sonoita: Canela is a restaurant born of oxymorons: a Southwestern bistro, located in Arizona wine country that serves the local bounty of the desert. Yet somehow, three oxymorons make a right. Thanks to a half-dozen ranches, a handful of farms and their own garden, owners John Hall and Joy Vargo produce a constantly changing menu that highlights seasonal, regional food. To wit: A salad composed of local organic heirloom apples is anointed with sage vinaigrette. Duck is sauced with green mole and nestled atop risotto redolent of cumin. "You wouldn't expect to find something like this here in Arizona wine country," Joy says. "There's no place like it." *Information: 520-455-5873 or [www.canelabistro.com](http://www.canelabistro.com).*

## BEST ARIZONA BREWS

**Oak Creek Amber Ale, 8th Street Ale and Old Monkey Shine:** These beers, found at Sedona's Oak Creek Brewery, Tempe's Four Peaks and Tucson's Nimbus Brewery, respectively, are the best of the brews. Where the Oak Creek Amber Ale is mellow and caramel infused, the 8th Street Ale is reminiscent of English-style bitter beers and the Old Monkey Shine is like dessert in a bottle — brown-sugar sweet with a caramel malt. Yum. *Information: Oak Creek Brewery, 928-203-9441 or [www.oakcreekbrew.com](http://www.oakcreekbrew.com); Four Peaks Brewery, 480-303-9967 or [www.fourpeaks.com](http://www.fourpeaks.com); Nimbus Brewery, 520-745-9175 or [www.nimbusbeer.qwestoffice.net](http://www.nimbusbeer.qwestoffice.net).*

## BEST PIZZA (IN THE SHADOW OF THE KING)

**Velvet Elvis** — Patagonia: In the striking

Southern Arizona town of Patagonia, more and more restaurateurs and chefs are turning to locally grown and organic produce, meats and cheeses. Consider the mouth-watering menu at Velvet Elvis, where owner/chef Cecelia San Miguel has combined the vibrant flavors of the Southwest with a dose of vintage kitsch to create such items as the Pancho Villa pizza, a combination of homemade beef chorizo, fresh tomatoes, yellow onion, cilantro, fresh jalapeños and Asiago and mozzarella cheeses. The salads, soups and calzones are equally delightful — and the King wouldn't have it any other way. *Information: 520-394-2101 or [www.velvetelvispizza.com](http://www.velvetelvispizza.com).*

## BEST PIZZA (IN THE USA)

**Pizzeria Bianco** — Phoenix: Chris Bianco is the king of pizza. Although contenders might dispute the claim, they'd be hard-pressed to prove it wrong, especially considering the fact that Bianco is a 2003 James Beard award-winner and that his downtown Phoenix bistro was awarded an amazing 29 out of 30 points by the Zagat Dining Guide. Most guests wait hours on end just to be seated at this tiny pizzeria, and although the menu is small, it's mighty, featuring a handful of decadent pizzas, handcrafted country bread and a selection of fresh, flavorful salads. *Information: 602-258-8300 or [www.pizzeriabianco.com](http://www.pizzeriabianco.com).*

## BEST COOKIES IN THE NORTH WOODS

**Jacob Lake Inn** — Jacob Lake: Not that you need any other reason to visit the North Rim of the Seventh Natural Wonder, but just in case, the cookies at the Jacob Lake Inn are a real bonus. Of course, the chocolate-chip and peanut butter won't let you down, but you might want to try something different, like the lemon zucchini or the six-grain. Buy a dozen and throw them in your backpack. You'll be glad you did. *Information: 928-643-7232 or [www.jacoblake.com](http://www.jacoblake.com).*

## BEST REASON TO GET UP EARLY

**Eggs Zorba, Bisbee Breakfast Club** — Bisbee: Pat Grimm, who co-owns this excellent restaurant with his spirited wife, Heather, rolls out of bed at 2 a.m. to fire up the griddle. You don't have to get there that early, but you do have to get in line for his specialty dish, which

features two scrambled eggs with sautéed red onions, spinach, black olives and feta cheese. If eggs could melt in your mouth, these would be the first to do so. The scones and cookies are something special, too. *Information: 520-432-5885 or [www.bisbeebreakfastclub.com](http://www.bisbeebreakfastclub.com).*

## BEST PLACE TO PICNIC UNDER A PECAN TREE

**The Farm at South Mountain** — Phoenix: It seems unlikely that amid all of the Valley's housing developments and big-box stores, a piece of the area's once rural past remains. But it does at The Farm at South Mountain. This pastoral setting is well known for its grove of pecan trees, as well as its organic gardens, art galleries and restaurants. From Morning Glory Café, which serves breakfast and lunch, to the award-winning Quiessence, The Farm is a great place to explore Phoenix's culinary chops. *Information: [www.thefarmatsouthmountain.com/dining](http://www.thefarmatsouthmountain.com/dining).*

## BEST SWEET TREATS AT 9,000 FEET

**Cookie Cabin** — Summerhaven: Life is sweet in Summerhaven, which rests high near the 9,157-foot summit of Mount Lemmon, about 45 minutes from Tucson. That's due in large part to cool air, scenic views and the Cookie Cabin, an aptly named cookie haven, which serves pizza and sweet treats. Try the peanut-butter cookie. Plate-sized and chock-full of peanut-buttery flavor, it's just awesome enough to make jelly, the world over, envious. *Information: 520-576-1010.*



PETER EISENBERGER

TOM BEAN



## BEST CALORIE-FREE CHOCOLATE

**Grand Falls of the Little Colorado** — near Winslow: Also known as "Chocolate Falls," the Grand Falls of the Little Colorado River, near Winslow, might not taste great, but they're higher than Niagara Falls and so named because of their muddy, murky color. According to waterfall aficionados, the best time to visit the falls is after a snowmelt, and although the falls are on the Navajo Nation, there are no admission fees. Take care, though, to respect private property. *Information: 928-679-2303 or [www.navajonationparks.org/htm/grandfalls.htm](http://www.navajonationparks.org/htm/grandfalls.htm).*

## BEST PLACE TO ADD CALORIES THE OLD-FASHIONED WAY

**Snow Cap Drive-In** — Seligman: Lovingly and humorously operated by the Delgadillo family since the 1950s, the Snow Cap is to Seligman and Route 66 what Mad Libs are to a family roadtrip: mandatory for a good time. Best known for burgers, malts and fries, the Snow Cap is no place for the calorie conscious, but it is a must-stop along historic Route 66. *Information: 928-422-3291.*



TERRENCE MOORE



PETER EISENBERGER

## BEST FARM WITHOUT ANY COWS

**Across the Creek at Aravaipa Farms Bed and Breakfast Country Inn** — near Winkelman: Nope, you won't find any cows on this farm. Nor will you find any silos or troughs. But you will find Carol Steele and her gorgeous bed and breakfast — not to mention her envy-inducing culinary skills. Nestled in Aravaipa Canyon, where wildlife, history and unadulterated panoramas abound, the B&B is an escape into nature. Bird-watch, hike or pick a pound of fruit, then return to the comfortably appointed B&B, where Carol will undoubtedly whip up bourbon chicken or a similarly transcendent meal. *Information: 520-357-6901 or [www.aravaipafarms.com](http://www.aravaipafarms.com).*



## BEST RESTAURANT WITH RUNNING WATER

**L'Auberge de Sedona** — Sedona: L'Auberge sits on a prime piece of real estate along Oak Creek, but that's not the only thing that makes it a must-visit Sedona destination. The menu is also a gem. Executive Chef Johnathan Gelman keeps things interesting, mixing up the menu daily to reflect changing themes and changing seasons. It's a method that works, having garnered the restaurant *Wine Spectator's* "Best of Award of Excellence" designation for 14 consecutive years. *Information:* 928-282-1667 or [www.lauberge.com/dining](http://www.lauberge.com/dining).

## BEST TRIBUTE TO A LEGEND

**Butchart Butte** — Grand Canyon National Park: Harvey Butchart is to the Grand Canyon what John Muir is to the Sierra Nevada. No one knows the Canyon better than Harvey did. In all, the late Northern Arizona University math professor trekked more than 12,000 miles through the Seventh Natural Wonder. He also climbed 83 of its buttes. Ironically, one of the few he didn't climb now bears his prestigious name. Butchart Butte, which rises to an elevation of 7,601 feet, recently was named in honor of the legendary explorer. It's a fitting tribute. *Information:* 928-638-7888 or [www.nps.gov/grca](http://www.nps.gov/grca).

## BEST PLACE TO GET YOUR FEET WET AT YOUR OWN SPEED

**Bear Wallow Wilderness:** Encompassing about 11,000 acres of the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests, Bear Wallow Wilderness is perhaps best known for the safe haven it provides the endangered Apache trout. Several shorter but sometimes strenuous hiking trails lead into the wilderness and to Bear Wallow Creek and its offshoots, including Gobbler Point Trail 59. The scenic trail provides the shortest route to the creek's downstream tributaries, perfect places to get your feet wet and attempt to spot one of the famed trout. Given the area's amazing views of Mount Graham and the Pinaleno Mountains, as well as countless cool ponderosa pines, it's little wonder that bears or bipeds might want to wallow there. *Information:* 928-333-4301 or [www.fs.fed.us/r3/asnf/recreation/alpine\\_trails/trl\\_alp\\_gobbler.shtml](http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/asnf/recreation/alpine_trails/trl_alp_gobbler.shtml).



GARY LADD

## BEST WAY TO FLOAT YOUR BOAT

**Houseboating on Lake Powell:** Nearly 2 million boaters hit the waterways of Glen Canyon National Recreation Area each year — and with good reason. Named for explorer John Wesley Powell and created by the flooding of Glen Canyon, Lake Powell is a houseboater's dream, thanks in large part to its abundance of stunning red-rock canyons and wide-open spaces. It's a perfect place to accommodate some of the ... ahem, dinghies made available through Lake Powell Resorts & Marinas. They range in size from 46 to 75 feet. *Information:* 888-896-3829 or [www.lakepowell.com](http://www.lakepowell.com).



## BEST WAY TO GET YOUR FEET WET AT BREAKNECK SPEED

**Rafting the Colorado River** — Grand Canyon: Hit the rapids on the Colorado and you'll likely get much more than your feet wet. In fact, at some point, you'll likely end up completely soaked. Grand Canyon National Park offers three different river exploration trips, ranging from one-day commercial trips to 12- to 25-day noncommercial trips. One shorter noncommercial trip launches from Diamond Creek, which rests on Hualapai land, and includes 52 miles of both smooth water and white water, as well as vibrant views of the Lower Gorge section of the Grand Canyon. *Information:* [www.nps.gov/grca/planyourvisit/whitewater-rafting.htm](http://www.nps.gov/grca/planyourvisit/whitewater-rafting.htm).

## BEST PLACE TO CAMP WITH A KAYAK

**Cattail Cove State Park** — Lake Havasu City: In many lakeside campgrounds, having a kayak is a plus. In this one, a boat is a must for getting to the prime spots. For \$15, visitors can leave their car in a secure parking lot, spend the day at Cattail Cove, and, at night, paddle out to more than 100 campsites. These sites are a little more primitive (outhouses, no electricity), but they're right on the shore. *Information:* 928-855-1223 or [www.azstateparks.com/parks/caco](http://www.azstateparks.com/parks/caco).



JASON WISE

## BRANDON WEBB Pitcher, Arizona Diamondbacks

### Best scenario for pitching at Chase Field: roof open or roof closed?

Either way is good with me. I don't think there's that much of a difference with how the ball flies if the roof is open or closed.

### Best place to sit at Chase Field (other than the dugout)?

One of the big suites maybe, get some food, drinks and relax.

### Best spring training facility in the Valley?

Probably the new L.A. and Chicago facility in Glendale.

### Best place in Arizona to listen to live music?

Tough one. I'd have to say Pussycat Lounge.

### Best place in Arizona to take your wife for a romantic dinner?

Mastro's is nice.

### Best place in Arizona to take friends from Kentucky?

One of the nice golf courses, maybe Grayhawk.

### Other than your family room, where's the best place in Arizona to watch a Kentucky basketball game?

The Diamondbacks clubhouse.

### What's the best thing about Arizona that you can't find in Kentucky?

The sun.

### Best advice you ever got from Randy Johnson (or any Diamondbacks' teammate)?

Juan Cruz said "Live pitch to pitch."

### Best pregame ritual of a teammate?

Doug Davis spitting on every step when he walks out to the mound, every inning.

## BEST RIVER TRIP OUTSIDE OF THE CANYON

**Salt River Gorge** — near Globe: This lesser-known Arizona canyon sports Class III and IV rapids and some seriously inspired rafting opportunities. Many of the rapids along the river's path between the canyon's 2,000-foot-tall granite walls have nicknames, including "Wall Slammer" and "Overboard." And there's plenty of Sonoran Desert scenery to enjoy while you're rocking and rolling on the white water. *Information:* 800-804-5623.

RAPHELLE HOPKINS



TOM BEAN

## BEST (AND ONLY) PLACE TO TASTE THE TUNDRA

**Humphreys Peak** — Flagstaff: The tallest of the San Francisco Peaks and the highest point in Arizona, Humphreys Peak stretches the tape measure all the way to 12,633 feet. A 4.5-mile trail leads hikers to the top of the peak, where the tree line recedes to nothing but sturdy tundra shrubs, preceded in appearance by a gaggle of wind and frost-bent pines. The trail itself is steep and long, but well worth it for hardy hikers looking to experience Arizona's only taste of the tundra. *Information:* 928-526-0866 or [www.fs.fed.us/r3/coconino/recreation/peaks/humphreys-tr.shtml](http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/coconino/recreation/peaks/humphreys-tr.shtml). ■





# A PULITZER WINNER AND A CAMERA WENT INTO THE CATALINAS...

The warm light of a desert sunset contrasts with winter's chill at Catalina State Park, where a fresh dusting of snow coats the slopes of the Santa Catalinas.

It sounds like a joke, doesn't it? It's not. We just wrote that to get your attention. When it comes to photography, Jack Dykinga is dead serious. That's why he has a Pulitzer sitting on his mantel. Or maybe it's shoved in a drawer — that's more Jack's style. Like other great artists, Jack's not motivated by medals and trophies. He's motivated by great photography, which is what he delivers in this month's portfolio of the Santa Catalina Mountains. Is it award-winning? Time will tell. Could he care less? Probably not.

by jack dykinga





**above** The scarlet blooms of ocotillos attract nectar-seeking hummingbirds and carpenter bees.

**right** Mesquite trees grow in the amber-colored grasslands and line the Cañada del Oro Wash that runs beneath the steep cliffs on the north side of the Santa Catalina range.







A heavy veil of fog envelops Pusch Ridge after a winter storm.







**above** A lone saguaro towers over prickly pear cactuses while snow-frosted slopes rise above the desert floor at Catalina State Park.

**left** The green pads of prickly pears complement the golden tones of sunset draped across grassy bajadas near Sutherland Wash.







**above** A rainbow arcs across Table Mountain and Pusch Ridge in the Coronado National Forest.

**left** Mimicking a lava flow, sunset casts a fiery glow on ephemeral water flowing from the Santa Catalinas through Sutherland Wash. ■





# PLEIN *and* SIMPLE

It's a French term, *en plein air*, and it refers to the process of painting in the great outdoors.

Arizona, with its dramatic light and spectacular topography, attracts plein-air artists from around the world — gifted men and women who are forced to work quickly and simply to capture the ever-changing conditions.

By Amy Abrams  
Photographs by Tim Koors

OPPOSITE PAGE: Sedona artist Mark Hemleben paints *en plein air* while standing on a rock in the middle of Oak Creek, near L'Auberge de Sedona.

Artists aren't always outdoorsy types, but if they want to paint a landscape — and get it just right — they venture out to experience the scene. When the weather is not tranquil, painting directly from nature can test artists' fortitude — enduring knee-deep snow or summer's blazing sun to capture a landscape on canvas. Rapidly changing light forces them to paint quickly and simplify, as they race against time to record the fleeting light in paint.

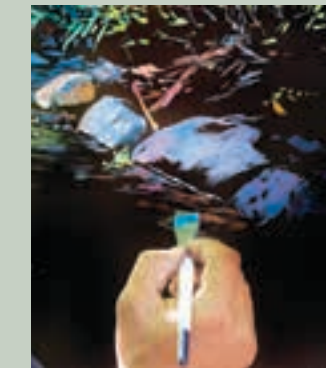
*Plein-air* painting, French for “open-air” painting, became popular in the early 19th century when premixed pigments first became available, which allowed artists to take supplies into the field. A contemporary plein-air painter strikes out to a site with a foldable easel and a miniature box of paints. First, he or she records the scene in fast brushstrokes. Then, form and color are added, and the setting takes shape. Back in the art studio, the artist might add final touches or use the painting as a study for a larger canvas.

With its dramatic light and topography, Arizona holds special appeal for landscape painters who head into the wild, sometimes on horseback, to reach rugged terrain. If the journey is lengthy, camping gear, grub and art supplies are turned over to packers on mules and the expedition ensues. The Grand Canyon, pine forests of Flagstaff, red-rock mountains of Sedona and harsh splendor of the Sonoran Desert are among the many destinations portrayed.

Nationally and internationally renowned plein-air painters have made Arizona their home. Here, we introduce you to five of the finest, who combine extraordinary technique — mastered over decades of trial and error out in the field — with a love of the land.







“I painted that one standing in 3 feet of snow,” says William Scott Jennings. “It’s not enough for me to simply translate a scene onto canvas. I want the viewer to feel what I feel standing in the landscape — to translate the emotions of real life.”

**K**nown worldwide, Curt Walters is among the most famous living painters of the Grand Canyon. “No matter how many times I see it, I’m just as excited as the first,” he says. “Art is really about sharing your feelings, and I want to share that excitement.”

While his affinity for the natural world was honed as a young boy — jumping haystacks and building fences on a large family farm in New Mexico — Walters surmises that his kinship for nature and his desire to capture it on canvas was fated. “Artists are born. There’s a genetic code. It says, ‘paint.’ I never wanted to do anything else.”

His family traveled throughout Arizona and the Southwest, visiting Canyon de Chelly and Monument Valley, but it was the Grand Canyon, first viewed when the artist was 19, that took his heart. “The grandest landscape in the world,” Walters says.

Walters is a self-described “weather watcher,” carefully plotting plein-air excursions to the Canyon from his Sedona home. “I jump in the car and I’m there in two hours. I’ve painted the Canyon in all seasons and all kinds of weather, but my favorite time is just after a big storm ... everything’s been moved through and there’s a special clarity in the view. That’s when you get the best shadow patterns.”

His spectacular paintings of panoramic vistas are held in the collections of prominent and celebrity collectors including Mikhail Baryshnikov and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, and showcased in top museums, including the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City and the Autry National Center of the American West in Los Angeles. Continually recognized with awards and honors, Walters is also known as an “ambassador” for Grand Canyon preser-

vation and has helped to raise more than \$500,000 in donations and art-related activities to fight pollution in the Canyon.

**T**he North Scottsdale home and art studio of Matt Smith sit near the edge of Tonto National Forest, the fifth largest in the United States, encompassing nearly 3 million acres. This “backyard” has become the renowned plein-air painter’s chief playground. Many mornings, with streamlined art supplies carefully placed in his backpack, which is tossed into the passenger seat of his open-air four-wheel-drive, Smith takes off down the many dirt roads. “The beauty of the Sonoran Desert is subtle, not obvious like the Grand Canyon or the red rocks in Sedona,” he says.

**ABOVE:** Plein-air artist Williamson Tapia paints on the banks of Oak Creek.

**LEFT:** Sedona Plein Air Festival’s “Quick Draw” event allows only two hours for an artist to work on a subject of his or her choice. Ninfa Mottershead’s painting depicts the vibrant colors of Oak Creek.





ABOVE, LEFT: Onlookers watch Joe Garcia create a street scene of Jerome.

ABOVE, RIGHT: Artist Jill Carver's unfinished work stands on an easel in front of the Gold King Mine and Ghost Town in Jerome.



School. Today, almost three decades later, Smith's reputation as one of the country's top plein-air painters draws aspiring artists from all over the world to his sought-after workshops at his alma mater — now an acclaimed educational center of traditional art. “My teachers were so generous, I wanted to give back,” says Smith, who has been featured on PBS television for his expertise. He also shares his mastery of the medium through instructional DVDs.

Another of Smith's favored Arizona locales is the Vermilion Cliffs — in Northern Arizona — where he erects his makeshift easel to record the landscape. He also travels the globe to paint, striking an exquisite balance between “nailing” the subject matter (enabling the viewer to feel smack dab in the elements portrayed), and celebrating the medium. “After all, it's paint,” Smith says. Then, he adds with a smile, “The subject can be an excuse for artists to simply play, just like we did in kindergarten.”

You could easily call Gregory Hull a Renaissance man. With formal training in portraiture and still life, Hull shifted his focus from studio painting to the outdoors, and now masters all three genres. When he's not creating art, the nationally renowned plein-air painter plays sonatas on his grand piano in the room that adjoins his Sedona art studio. His adjacent home, perched among the red rocks, is filled with antiques — many collected on his sojourns throughout the West — including Native American textiles, beadwork and baskets.

Varied Arizona locales fill his colorful canvases — the Superstition Mountains, towering aspens on the San Francisco Peaks, ruins in Casa

Grande and the winding river through the cliffs of the Grand Canyon. His mural, measuring 16 feet, is a panoramic view of the Grand Canyon that decorates the walls of Phoenix's elegant Westin Kierland Resort & Spa. It's one of many of his paintings held in the collections of top corporations and in collectors' homes from coast to coast.

“A painting is not the sum total of details, but rather a careful choosing and simplifying of the scene,” Hull explains. “The painter's job is creating the feeling of this complexity without painting every detail.”

“I painted that one standing in 3 feet of snow,” says William Scott Jennings, pointing to a landscape study in his Sedona home, nestled at the base of the red-rock mountains. Dozens of the artist's paintings, stacked against the walls of his sunlit studio, compile a visual celebration of Arizona, including views of the Grand Canyon and Canyon de Chelly — his favorite destinations.

“It's not enough for me to simply translate a scene onto canvas,” he explains. “I want the viewer to feel what I feel standing in the landscape — to translate the emotions of real life.” Jennings has successfully played the heartstrings of collectors nationwide, with paintings in the collections of celebrities (Goldie Hawn, William Shatner, Kurt Russell), corporations (Ford Motor Co.) and lining the walls of government buildings, including the U.S. Capitol.

With loose brushstrokes and paint applied directly from his palette knife, Jennings fills his canvas with glorious color, depicting the scene. Sometimes his spontaneous application of paint, while creating glistening skies and sunsets, leans toward the abstract.

His first foray into the visual arts was through academic study and employment in commercial art. After working in advertising, he began painting *en plein air* and was “hooked.” He took the leap from commercial to fine art and hasn't looked back. “I was single and 24 years old. Back then, it didn't seem like much of a financial risk to make \$500 a month,” he says smiling.

## When You Go

**GETTING THERE:** If you'd like to watch plein-air artists from around the country do their thing, head to this year's weeklong Sedona Plein Air Festival, October 24 through November 1. Lectures, classes, special events and an artist exhibit also will be held at the Sedona Arts Center, 15 Art Barn Road in Uptown Sedona, and several nearby locations.

**INFORMATION:** 888-954-4442 or visit [www.sedonapleinairfestival.com](http://www.sedonapleinairfestival.com).

“I grew up loving nature and never quit,” exclaims Joan Marron-LaRue, who spent her childhood in western Oklahoma on the family ranch and farm, where she rode her own Shetland pony, played make-believe in a tree house, and hunted and fished. Today, she makes her home outside the city limits of Tucson, where javelinas and coyotes are spotted outside her front door. Her intimate paintings of Arizona reflect her rural roots — outdoor scenes of roosters and chickens, weather-beaten Ford tractors and pick-ups, as well as old school-houses. “I like to paint my own little corner of the world,” she says.

Like many artists, Marron-LaRue was reluctant to commit to painting as a career. “Too impractical,” she says, “although my whole life I wanted to paint.” After studying fashion merchandising and establishing a successful career in retail, her husband's profession took her to “a little oil-patch town, where there was nothing — zip.

So, I began my painting career by the seat of my pants,” she says with a laugh. While she secured gallery representation and sold her paintings, she knew she needed more training and began years of study with the masters of plein-air painting, including Clyde Aspevig, Sergei Bongart, Scott Christensen and Richard Schmid. Her painting career soared and now, she claims membership alongside her mentors in the Plein-Air Painters of America — the country's most prestigious plein-air organization.

Travel also informs Marron-LaRue's artwork, with extended excursions to remote corners of Nepal, Bolivia, Turkey, France, Italy, Alaska and more. The joy of her journeys is exuded in her paintings. “I hope you look at my paintings and feel that I love what I do. I'm having a wonderful time.” ■



ABOVE: Black Canyon City artist James Coulter chooses an idyllic landscape of Oak Creek for his plein-air creation.





## STONEMAN LAKE ROAD An 8 million-year-old lake, aspens and lush meadows are just a few reasons to hop on this back road to Flagstaff.

BY KELLY KRAMER  
PHOTOGRAPHS BY  
NICK BEREZENKO

For folks on a mission, the surest route to Flagstaff from Phoenix is a straight shot up Interstate 17. It's quick, and it's scenic in its own rite, especially as it runs into the cool ponderosa pine forest. But travelers looking for a quieter

route will find Stoneman Lake Road (Forest Road 213) the perfect byway to connect to Forest Highway 3, a back road into Flagstaff.

The 15-mile trip begins off I-17, some 19 miles north of Camp Verde at Exit 306, and takes about 40 minutes. There are, however, plenty of opportunities to stop and enjoy the scenery, which might lead to a longer excursion. The first 8.5 miles are paved, and although the last 6.5 traverse a rustic road, it's well maintained and easily passable in a standard passenger vehicle, but not after heavy rains.

As the juniper-lined paved road ends, you'll bear left and continue on FR 213 — onto a red dirt road — and begin a slow, steady climb in elevation.

After approximately 2 miles, the road splits to the day-use area for Stoneman Lake. The road to the lake comprises several semihairy turns, but the few seconds of adrenaline amplification are worth it. At the end of the road, bear right into the public parking lot.

Created more than 8 million years ago by a volcanic depression, the lake is a closed system, meaning there's no outflow to remove pollutants. That, however, hasn't stopped

a veritable menagerie of wild-life from flocking to the area. Among the fish that inhabit the lake — which, of late, has experienced record low water levels — are yellow perch and northern pike. In addition, countless songbirds nest in the area, and on any given day, you might catch the blue-winged flash of a Steller's jay out of the corner of your eye. Bald eagles are also fond of the lake and its surrounding trees and basalt boulders — during winter, the area becomes a nesting ground for the national bird.

Single-motor boats are allowed on the lake and can launch from a public gravel boat landing. If you're more interested in a leisurely picnic before hitting the road to Flagstaff, make use of one of the shaded picnic tables, or pick a pretty place on the lakeshore. Take care, though, not to disturb any of the private cottages that line the lake.

After you explore Stoneman Lake, return to FR 213 and continue on as the road rambles in and out of private land and through pine and aspen forests and a speckling of wide-open meadows and public campgrounds. After another 6 miles, you'll reach a junction with Forest Road 230, which ultimately leads to the base of Apache Maid Mountain, looming more than 7,000 feet over Wet Beaver Creek. That route loops back to Stoneman Lake Road. Or, you can bypass the scenic drive to Apache Maid Mountain and continue directly to FH 3, which is yet another scenic drive that leads to Flagstaff. ■

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** For more scenic drives, pick up a copy of our book, *The Back Roads*. Now in its fifth edition, the book (\$19.95) features 40 of the state's most scenic drives. To order a copy, call 800-543-5432 or visit [www.arizonahighways.com](http://www.arizonahighways.com).



**LEFT:** An old alligator juniper tree grows along the edge of Stoneman Lake, near Flagstaff.

**ABOVE:** Ponderosa pine trees provide homes for a variety of songbirds that inhabit the forest surrounding Stoneman Lake.



## tour guide

Note: Mileages are approximate.

**DIRECTIONS:** From Phoenix, go north on Interstate 17 to Exit 306. Turn right at the end of the exit ramp onto Stoneman Lake Road, Forest Road 213. In the first 1.5 miles, the road comes to intersections with dirt roads, but continue on FR 213 until the paved road ends, approximately 8.5 miles from the interstate. Bear left on FR 213 and continue for approximately 2 miles to the day-use area or for 6.5 miles to Forest Highway 3, also called Lake Mary Road.

**VEHICLE REQUIREMENTS:** Accessible to all vehicles.

**INFORMATION:** Coconino National Forest, Red Rock Ranger District, 928-282-4119 or [www.fs.fed.us/r3/coconino/recreation/red\\_rock/stoneman-boat.shtml](http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/coconino/recreation/red_rock/stoneman-boat.shtml).

**511** Travelers in Arizona can visit [www.az511.gov](http://www.az511.gov) or dial 511 to get information on road closures, construction, delays, weather and more.





## ARIZONA TRAIL 87

### The Arizona Trail has many segments. One of the most scenic runs from Marshall Lake to Fischer Point near Flagstaff.

BY ROBERT STIEVE  
PHOTOGRAPHS BY TOM BEAN

One thousand, nine hundred and thirteen. That's how many miles separate Flagstaff, Arizona, and Washington, D.C. With that kind of distance, and all of the other priorities of the president, few people would have expected Barack Obama to make time for the Arizona Trail. That said, on March 30, 2009, he signed HR 146, which, among other things, added the 790-mile trail to the exclusive list of National Scenic Trails.

Beyond the prestige, the designation is significant because it provides a new level of protection

for the trail. Of course, the prestige is nice, too. Prior to the president's signature, there were only eight National Scenic Trails in the country. Now, the Arizona Trail is among an elite group that includes The Pacific Crest Trail.

One of the easiest and most accessible sections of the Arizona Trail, which runs north-south from Mexico to Utah, is the route from Marshall Lake to Fischer Point near Flagstaff. Named for the guy who incorporated the first bank in Flagstaff, Marshall Lake is more marsh than lake. Still, it's a vital wetland that provides habitat for an array of birds, including osprey and bald eagles. What's more, it's beautiful.

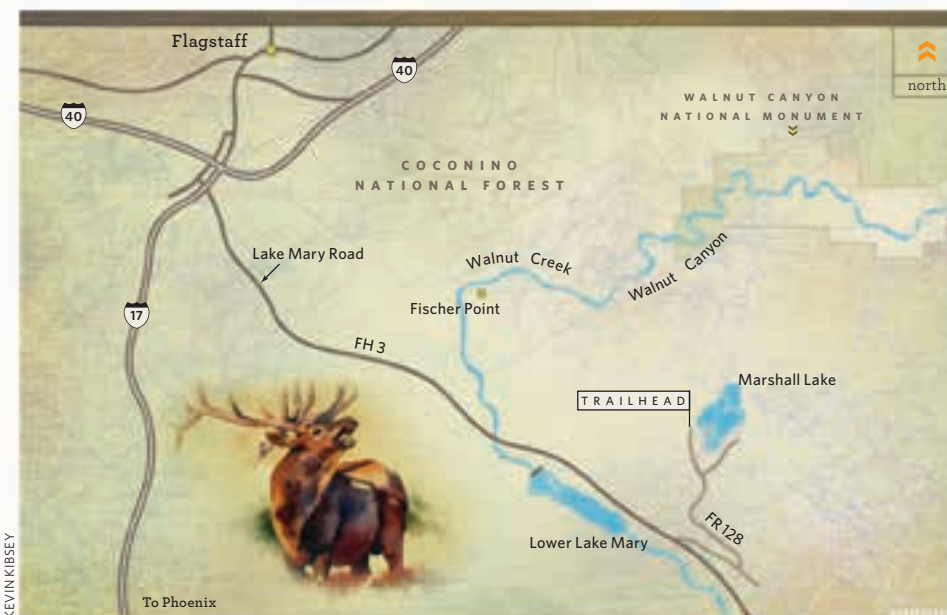
From the lake, the easy-to-follow trail (think cow path) cuts across Anderson Mesa, a broad grassy upland dotted with trees. After about 20 minutes, the trail drops into a ponderosa forest. Although you'll be surrounded by trees, it's nothing compared to the Appalachian Trail, which, according to Bill Bryson, is a good thing. As he wrote in *A Walk in the Woods*, his superb book about hiking that National Scenic Trail: "Woods are not like other spaces. Their trees surround you, loom over you, press in from all sides. Woods choke off views and leave you muddled and without bearings."

The route from Marshall Lake is nothing like that. In fact, it's so open there's a good chance you'll see some wildlife — keep your eyes peeled for elk, mule deer, turkeys and coyotes. Continuing downhill for another 10 or 15 minutes, you'll come to a small meadow, which gives way to more trees and a brief uphill climb. The trail continues like this for about an hour, after which you'll come to the ridgeline of Walnut Canyon. Whether you're ready or not, you'll want to take a break here. The views of the San Francisco Peaks are spectacular — maybe as good as you'll get anywhere in Northern Arizona.

Moving on, the trail switchbacks to the bottom of the canyon (the same canyon that's home to Walnut Canyon National Monument), and passes some beautiful red-rock cliffs reminiscent of Sedona, but with a hint of pink as well. Eventually, you'll come to a large open meadow with a couple of trails going in different directions. Follow the signs to Fischer Point. You could turn around here, but the extra 1.1 miles (one way) to the point are worth the effort. From the top, you can see distant horizons and the meadow you crossed below. And like any apex, it's a perfect place to reflect on the first half of the hike. It's also a good opportunity to look east and whisper "thank you." After all, if you like hiking, you should be grateful for HR 146. ■



▶ A hike along a portion of the Arizona Trail near Flagstaff passes through meadows and ponderosa pine forests (left and above).



ONLINE For more hikes in Arizona, visit our "Hiking Guide" at [www.arizonahighways.com](http://www.arizonahighways.com).

## trail guide

**LENGTH:** 13.6 miles round-trip

**ELEVATION:** 7,133 to 7,708 feet

**DIFFICULTY:** Easy to moderate

**DIRECTIONS:** From Flagstaff, go southeast on Forest Highway 3 (Lake Mary Road) for 9.5 miles to Forest Road 128. Turn left on FR 128 and continue 1.2 miles to a fork in the road. Turn left at the fork and drive a half-mile to an intersection with an unmarked dirt road. Turn left and drive a quarter-mile to the trailhead.

**INFORMATION:** 928-526-0866 or [www.fs.fed.us/r3/coconino](http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/coconino)

### LEAVE NO TRACE ETHICS:

- Plan ahead and be prepared.
- Travel and camp on durable surfaces.
- Dispose of waste properly and pack out your trash.
- Leave what you find.
- Respect wildlife and minimize impact.
- Be considerate of others.



where  
is this?

## Floating Down- Stream

BY KERIDWEN  
CORNELIUS  
PHOTOGRAPH BY  
KERRICK JAMES

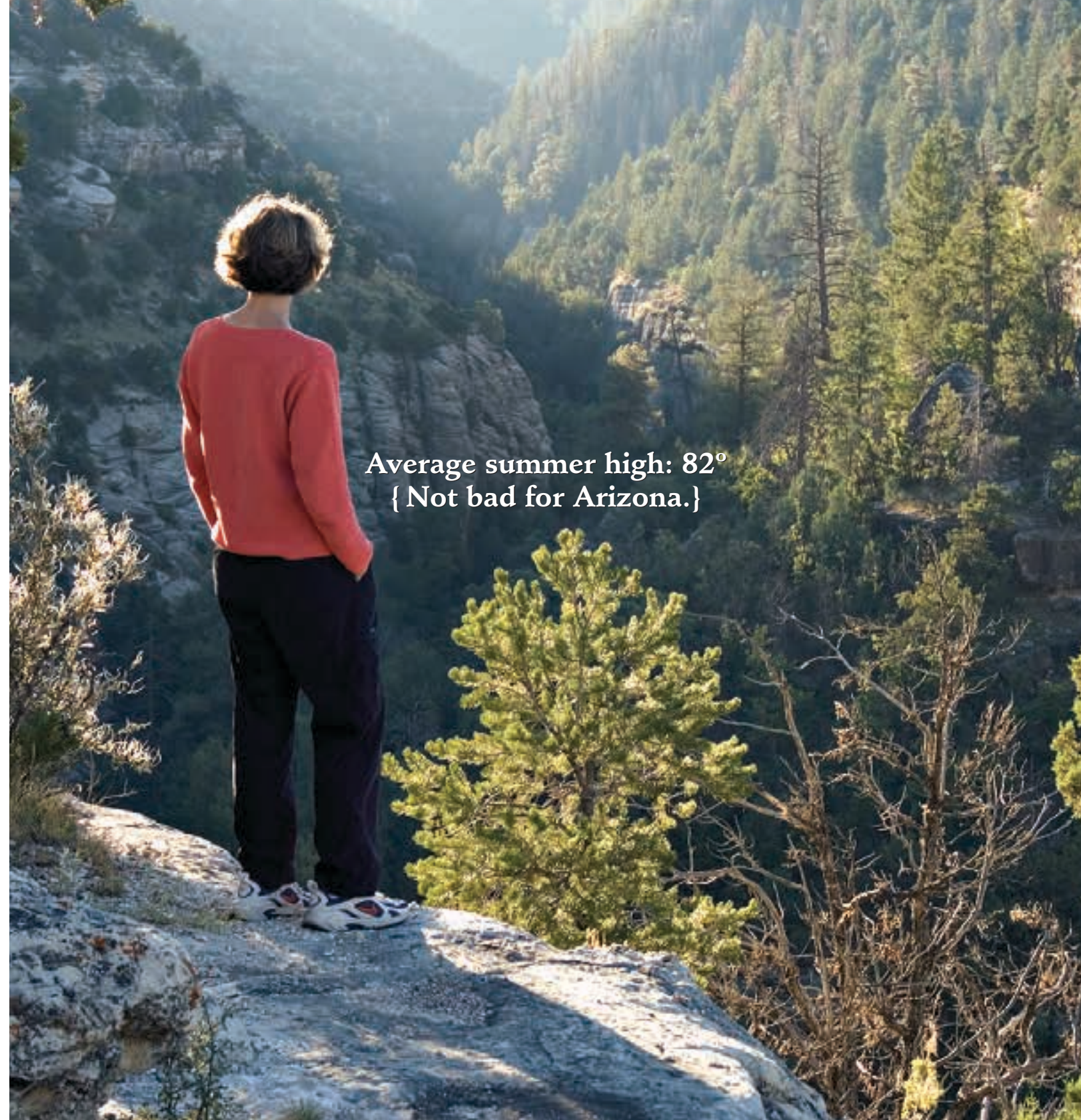
This body of water might seem like it has an inferiority complex: It plays second fiddle to a famous river and is sourced from Arizona's second-highest point. But in the looks department, it's a winner. Calcium carbonate and copper sulfate turn the waters a stunning blue-green — striking against the rusty cliffs it passes on its approximately 315-mile meander. Plus, it has great views, from forested mountains to grasslands to the rocky gorges where it clashes with its rival.



June 2009 Answer: Marshall Lake near Flagstaff. Congratulations to our winner, Rose Griffin of San Francisco.



**Win a collection of our most popular books!** To enter, correctly identify the location featured above and e-mail your answer to [editor@arizonahighways.com](mailto:editor@arizonahighways.com) — type "Where Is This?" in the subject line. Entries can also be sent to 2039 W. Lewis Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85009. Please include your name, address and phone number. One winner will be chosen in a random drawing of qualified entries. Entries must be postmarked by August 15, 2009. Only the winner will be notified. The correct answer will be posted in our October issue and online at [www.arizonahighways.com](http://www.arizonahighways.com) beginning September 15.



Average summer high: 82°  
{ Not bad for Arizona. }

Situated in the cool mountains at 7,000 feet and on the heart of Route 66, Flagstaff is midway between Sedona and the Grand Canyon, making it the perfect hub for your Northern Arizona adventure.

*Flagstaff* The destination for all seasons  
[flagstaffarizona.org](http://flagstaffarizona.org) | 888.591.2345



